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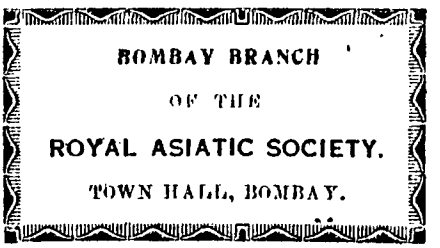

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BY LAND AND OCEAN

OR

THE JOURNAL AND LETTERS OF A YOUNG GIRL WHO WENT TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA WITH A LADY FRIEND, THEN

ALONE

TO VICTORIA, NEW ZEALAND, SYDNEY, SINGAPORE, CHINA, JAPAN, AND ACROSS THE CONTINENT OF AMERICA HOME

84541

BY

FANNY L. RAINS

LONDON
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WILLIAMS FAMILY, NOT FINDLEY

PREFACE.

It is with great reluctance and many sinkings of heart that I have yielded to the oft-repeated requests of my friends, and have prepared for print this rambling account of my journeyings, for there are so many books of travel written now-a-days with skilful and well-trained pens, that I fear how mine will stand the ordeal of public criticism.

No thrilling incidents nor wonderful adventures are here recorded, but the whole may serve to show with what enjoyment and comparative ease a lone damsel travelled the greater part of the way round the world, without even a maid.

One other remark I would make, which is, that my stay in any one place was too short for me to gain aught but a cursory knowledge of the manners and customs of

the people, or of the countries through which I passed, and I therefore express with diffidence the thoughts and opinions I have formed *en passant*, and would remind my readers that they lack the authority to be gained from a more lengthy sojourn and greater experience.

F. L. R.

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THE WILLOW PATTERN BRIDGE, CANTON.

BY LAND AND OCEAN.

CHAPTER I.

TO ADELAIDE.

It was a bright sunny day, July the 26th, that we started, my friend and I, in a sailing vessel bound for Adelaide. We went on board in the docks, preferring to begin our journey at the starting-point. To the tender farewells which took place, I will not allude further than to say that we were all very brave, and even tried to indulge in some feeble jokes as we stood on deck watching our friends get indistinct in the distance. When they were no longer visible we retired to our cabin to try and put things therein a little ship-shape before night. It appeared pretty nearly air-tight by the time we and our goods and chattels were all stowed away, and I began to realise that I had done what I believe some ships are said to do—viz., 'slip their anchor and run out to sea;' my travels really had begun although we were only in the River Thames. The evening was uneventful, and we retired early, but *not* to sleep; for what with the tread

of the watch, and the remonstrances of the cow and other live stock on board against the position in which they found themselves, there was not much chance of rest. The Captain, too, with his wife and some friends, arrived at 11 P.M., which somewhat added to the commotion. At 3.30 A.M. the noises began again with swinging of compasses, followed by washing of decks—in fact, there was such a variety of sounds, and all so startling, that I began to think that after a little such training I should be able to sleep at the mouth of a cannon. At last, in desperation, I got up and dressed, and at 8.30 emerged from my cabin and made acquaintance with our skipper. Wednesday morning found us speeding along at a fine rate, and we expected to be at Plymouth by the next day; but the treacherous wind suddenly fell and left us becalmed off the Isle of Wight. The weather was glorious and the view lovely, but we failed to appreciate it as hour after hour went by and we swayed to and fro on the placid water. The next day, however, the wind awoke, and, with all sail set, our ship flew over the water, and on Friday night, just at the time we were advertised to *leave* Plymouth, we arrived, and let go the anchor. The next morning before breakfast the mail bag was brought on board. How those letters were enjoyed! all the more because they were the last we should have for three months. Most of the passengers landed for a few hours, but by 4 P.M. all were on board, and we were once more under way. The next day was occupied in settling in and making the acquaintance of those of

our passengers who had but lately joined us, and we easily fell into the routine of life on ship-board. The hours for meals were rather inconveniently close together, thus allowing the sea air no chance of giving us an appetite—breakfast being at nine, tiffin at twelve, dinner at four, tea at seven, and sandwiches and biscuits at half-past nine. Lights had to be put out in the saloon at ten o'clock, and passengers' were obliged to extinguish theirs at half-past; a most irksome and tantalising regulation, especially on moonlight nights in the Tropics, when we should have liked to have stayed later on deck. We unfortunately found at first some occupants of our cabin who, I feel sure, did not pay any passage money! otherwise our quarters were most comfortable, and as time went on, the accommodation they afforded seemed to increase and become even extensive. On the second Sunday out we were again becalmed, the sea really looking like a sheet of glass, and some black specks were discerned upon the water, very suggestive of turtles. The Captain gave orders for one of the boats to be lowered that an attempt might be made to catch some—no easy matter, as when visible, they are asleep upon the water; but immediately they are disturbed and become aware of danger, sink out of sight and reach. Cautiously keeping to windward of them, however, the men contrived to catch two, over which there was great rejoicing. Just about this time our nights were by no means sacred to sleep; the wind being so light the ship had to be 'bouted' very

often, one night even as many as four times. This was a very lively ceremony, the machine used giving forth the most excruciating sounds. On fine evenings the phosphorescent appearance of the sea was most beautiful. Numbers of fish followed the ship one day, the sailors call them Albachors; they are about the size of small cod, but with beautiful coloured scales. The gentlemen tried to hook some, but were so long making their arrangements that only one remained, and that one 'didn't see the fun,' as the Captain said. We also saw lots of Mother Carey's chickens, and the gentlemen made strenuous efforts to catch them with black thread, but only succeeded in entangling themselves. The time passed swiftly away, for with work, reading, writing, music, cards, quoits, and croquet the hours could scarcely drag heavily. The sailmaker made us our croquet balls of cork covered with leather, flat top and bottom; and with the wickets fixed into holes in the deck, the game was not only possible but very enjoyable in the long bright evenings. One afternoon one of our fellow-passengers asked some of us to a kettledrum in her cabin. We went and found everything most snug and *comme il faut*. A little Etna stood in the wash-hand bason, the tea things on the chest of drawers, and the hostess was seated on a box ready to do the honours of the occasion. Our officers and midshipmen were most kind and pleasant, the third officer, a very funny fellow, reminding one of a soda-water bottle with the cork just drawn, for he was in a perpetual state of effer-

vescent nonsense and continually perpetrating the most horrible jokes.

On the 6th we had a head wind, which made our vessel roll miserably; we could scarcely get dressed for dinner, being alternately sent almost flying out of the port and then back against our berths; and these excursions, combined with the laughing they caused, rather hindered our toilet. From that time till the end of our journey the fiddles, as the contrivances for keeping the crockery on table are called, were almost always in use at meals. It was a difficult matter, too, to avoid being sent out of one's berth, and I was rather like a chrysalis in a card box, as I could by no means contrive to fix myself so as to prevent rolling on to my nose. The heat now began to be great, the thermometer in my cabin standing at 78° in the morning when the port had been open all night. We were not able to sight Madeira, being obliged to take too westerly a course. This was a disappointment.

August 13th we came in sight of Palma, one of the Canary Islands, but it was so distant it only looked like a cloud on the horizon. The dampness of the atmosphere was most peculiar, especially in the evening—everything was as wet on deck as if a sharp shower of rain had just fallen, and our clothes hung limp about us.

August 16th was a day of calm, the night having been the very reverse, during which I had been kept awake from fear of falling out of my berth, while through the open door of the cabin, left so on account of the great

heat, came a full chorus of noises caused by the creaking of the mizenmast, together with that of the swing trays and the jingling of tumblers and glasses innumerable. We were in the veritable tropics, and dolphins were following in the wake of the ship looking like moving rainbows. On the 17th we were off the Cape Verd islands, and the weather was oppressively hot, reminding us forcibly of Sidney Smith's impossible desire to 'take off his flesh and sit in his bones.' Active exercise was out of the question, and one sometimes felt too hot even to think. The evenings were lovely, there being a full moon.

On the 20th the wind got up again, and the ship recommenced her sort of intoxicated walk through the waters, making us look at one another dubiously, and preventing us from doing full justice to the meals, though I must do everyone the credit to say that they did not actually disgrace themselves as sailors. We had left the region of North-East Trade Winds, and were now subject to squalls, light showers, uncertain winds, and other disagreeables of that sort. One of the steerage passengers had caught a flying fish, which we bought of him and had it cooked. I tasted a morsel, and found it most delicious. On the 21st we had rain, and plenty of it—a tropical shower in good earnest. The sailors were soon busy, hurrying to and fro with buckets to catch the rain water. The ducks and geese were let out on the quarter deck to enjoy a run and bath. They seemed thoroughly to know what our in-

tentions were towards them, and were not slow in making use of their advantages. Having been penned up for a month, this sudden piece of good luck must have been almost more than they could realise. After this followed an uneventful time, our progress being very slow, as what wind there was was foul, making the Captain rather savage. On the 26th there was a vessel in sight, beating about in the same helpless way as ourselves, waiting for the favourable breeze which did not come; and on the 28th a *homeward bound* vessel passed us, but not near enough to 'signalise,' much less to send letters by her. That same day, too, we crossed the Line, though without feeling any bump! The old practical jokes which sailors used to play on these occasions upon the poor unfortunate passengers are now very much restricted, and the gentlemen on board our ship had therefore to undergo a very mild edition. Two more vessels passed in sight homeward bound, and with them fled our last chance of sending letters—a grievous disappointment. Then came days of somewhat rough weather with sudden squalls. Much amusement was caused by the way our things would persist in slipping about, notwithstanding the praiseworthy efforts we made to lash them or wedge them securely, and many an excursion did we make unwittingly into cabins not our own.

August 31st we passed a vessel close enough to signal her—to most of us a novel and interesting sight. We made out her name to be 'Wheatlandside,' of

Glasgow, going from Cardiff to Aden with a cargo of coals, and of 1,090 tons register. We gave our name and destination, and wished them a safe and pleasant voyage, to which they replied, 'Thank you.' Each vessel then hoisted the ensign, and having dipped it three times the conversation ended.

Among other pastimes on board I learned to box the compass, the names of all the sails, and even tried my hand at sail-making.

September 7th there were several whales disporting themselves at some distance from the ship, but too far for us to see much more than their clumsy gambols in the spray that was dashed up. We were then out of the Tropics, and 24° 55″ south of the Line. About this time the Southern Cross became visible, the Pointers having heralded its rising some time before. I was much disappointed with it, but I believe this is the general feeling of travellers. I consider it an insignificant constellation in comparison with Orion and the Great Bear. It does not form by any means a perfect cross, nor are any of the stars of the first magnitude.

September 8th it blew half a gale, and gave us some experience of rough weather. We had such fun, much more than the sailors, I expect; but, as we told them, they could hardly believe how nice it was from our reserved seats in the saloon to look out on the spirited scene before us. How I wish I could describe it! The sailors, rigged in their tarpaulins, reefing and furling

GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND GROUNDS, ADELAIDE.

sails and hauling ropes, but every now and then pausing to hold on while a wave came sweeping over their heads and the main and quarter decks like a huge waterfall. They could scarcely get about, the lurching of the ship and the slipperiness of the decks making locomotion very difficult. Most of them resigned themselves to skating, and the gracefulness of their gyrations called forth much laughter. After dinner the weather cleared sufficiently for the ladies to go up on deck, the rain abating, though the wind was still high. We arrived in time to see a gloriously stormy sunset, all grey and gold, and a beautiful rainbow. We stayed till tea time, holding on for dear life, or like grim death, whichever you please, watching the waves come rolling towards the ship's stern like moving mountains.

September 10th. Such a night as we had of it! the wind being aft, the ship rolled dreadfully, and the consequences were most unpleasant. I think there is a poem which says 'night is the time for rest,' but at any rate it does not hold good at sea. It appeared to me that we only went to bed to work hard at keeping in our berths, and to indulge in a few athletic sports by way of amusement. Dressing in the morning was a most ludicrous accomplishment, resulting in a feeling of soreness and aching decidedly unpleasant.

A flock of Cape pigeons was following the ship; they are about as large as sea gulls, black and white in colour; the breasts are entirely white, and they have long beaks. I was astonished to find that birds caught

at sea suffer from sickness immediately they come on deck.

By this time we were experiencing cold weather, the thermometer falling daily, and should have been glad of a cheerful fire, also the pleasant exercise of walking on deck to warm ourselves, but that was impossible, the weather being so squally.

Sunday, the 13th, was memorable as affording us the great treat of a sight of land, the Island of Tristan da' Cunha. At 5 A.M. the Captain tapped at my cabin door and called out 'Land ahead!' I hurried on deck and was greeted with the very keenest of south-west winds, equivalent to a north-easter in England. The land was still some distance off, but looked beautiful in the early morn. The sun had not yet risen, a grey mantle wrapped everything round, and heavy masses of cloud like white curtains stretched down to the horizon. About eight o'clock we came under lee of the land, and the Captain gave orders to stand by and see if the inhabitants would put off to us. For some time we waited, but as it seemed in vain, till, through a telescope, we could discern that they were manning boats. Now I will put down as much as I know of this island and its strange little company of settlers, severed as they are from the outside world. They number about eighty-two all told, and comprise fourteen families. There used to be a Governor, Mr. Glass by name, but he is dead, so the oldest inhabitant, Peter Green, who has been there forty years, is now the chief. They

possess cattle, and succeed in raising potatoes and other vegetables. They also grow apples, figs, and peaches. Penguins are plentiful, and many kinds of fish, but for flour, tea, sugar, coffee, tobacco, rice, clothes, and many other necessaries of life, they depend upon passing ships, for which they keep a sharp look out, and when, as often happens, there are long intervals between these visits, their stock becomes very low and sometimes even exhausted. The passengers contributed whatever they could spare, such as clothes, writing-paper, tapes, buttons, cottons, playing cards, books, newspapers, scented soap, &c., and the Captain gave some of the ships' stores, getting in exchange four sheep, some geese, potatoes, and a quantity of eggs, mostly penguins', and last, but not least, a little pig possessed of very good lungs. Peter Green's daughter was about to be married, and the bridegroom elect, who was one of the number who came off to the ship, was anxious to get some scented soap and a bottle of eau de cologne as gifts for his bride. Newspapers they are always glad of. A few years ago a gentleman subscribed a sum of money for a clergyman to be sent to them for five years; now they conduct worship in one another's houses occasionally, but for marriages, christenings, &c., they secure the services of a clergyman from a passing vessel. They appear not to care to see the world, some having been as far as the Cape in a whaler, but preferring to return. There are three other islands near but uninhabited. Two Germans landed on one called the 'Inaccessible,' and

remained for some time, but were afterwards taken off by a vessel. The Tristan da' Cunhas tried to persuade them to come over to their island, and even built houses for their accommodation, but in vain. The news of the Germans having left only reached them subsequently through an English newspaper. The island is very rocky, rising precipitously from the sea to the height of 3,000 feet, and attaining in one part to 8,000 feet. The summit is covered with snow till late in the spring. The circumference is so small that a man can walk round it in one day.

On the evening of the 13th we had the most exquisite sunset I have ever seen, and afterwards moonlight clear enough to see to read by—and small print, too. The run in the past twenty-four hours had only been twenty-one miles, and the second officer told me that in the night the ship would scarcely steer at all, but went all round the points of the compass.

About this time we began to get up charades and concerts for our amusement, and they proved creditable considering our slender resources.

Wednesday, 22nd, we were off the Cape, and that night it blew half a gale, and we had a rare time of bumping and jerking. The sailors' quarters were filled with water sufficient to float their chests, the anchor weighing two tons was moved seven or eight inches, and the skylight on the forecastle was washed away. The second class passengers on the weather side had their cabins flooded.

On Sunday, October 3rd, we caught a shark, a small one, about six or seven feet long. I was up on deck to see the sport. The bait was a piece of pork weighing about 4 lbs., which he managed to swallow without getting hooked, so another piece was supplied and that proved successful. The men then threw loops of rope round him especially to make sure of his tail, and hauled him up on the deck, where everyone took care to give him a wide berth. It was an ugly looking fish, and one felt anything but anxious to have a *rencontre* with him. With shouts of triumph he was dragged down to the main deck, and his tail cut off. His heart, which was still beating, was shown to me some hours after, and, according to sailors' belief, would continue to beat till sun-down. Some of the fish was cooked for dinner, and I tasted it, much to the astonishment of the other ladies. It was tender as plaice, but rather strong in flavour.

The greatest storm we experienced was on Friday, October 8th. For several days the barometer had been so remarkably low that the Captain had his forebodings, nevertheless the gale was not so heavy as we had feared it would be, though quite bad enough for us. All sails but three were taken in, and the ship hove to for several hours. Without these precautions our bulwarks would most probably have been carried away, and the saloon filled with a green sea. On the following night our list of passengers was increased, a little girl being added to the number.

Friday, 15th, we began to feel something like school children at the end of a term, for we were within a few days of landing, and excitement ran high. Heaving the log was almost as anxious an operation as taking the temperature of a sick person, and the Captain was plied with endless questions as to when we might arrive. The usual sweepstake was got up among the passengers. The next day, Saturday, we reached the Semaphore and let go the anchor. There we were obliged to remain for the night, and until four o'clock in the afternoon of the next day. A boat came off to us, however, bringing our pilot and some friends of the passengers, also a bundle of newspapers, from which I eagerly gathered English news. It was quite strange to think how the world had kept on wagging, notwithstanding we had been, as it were, out of it! We went to bed but not to sleep, I especially having my mind full of speculations as to what kind of reception I should have from those to whom I took letters of introduction, and what friends I might make during my sojourn on that side of the globe. Of introductions I had a goodly number, and many of them to influential people in Adelaide. I had also received from the friends of my friend and fellow passenger a hearty invitation to stay with them for a time until I should be able to mature my plans. I felt this to be particularly kind as I was a perfect stranger to them; nor was their goodness merely temporary, for they made me use their house as my head-quarters during the three months I remained in Ade-

laide, and loaded me with kindness. We rose early the next morning, hoping to be able to go into port directly, but found to our chagrin that the tide would not allow of our doing so till late in the afternoon. Not till 8 P.M. did we really land, and as our friend's house was at some distance, it was 10.30 before we reached it at the end of a long, wearisome, and exciting day. It seemed quite strange to be once more on terra firma, with something else around us than the monotony of sea and sky that we had experienced for so many weeks.

CHAPTER II.

ADELAIDE.

ADELAIDE is situated about eight miles from the sea, with a range of hills in a semicircle, making a pretty background, Mount Lofty, 3,000 feet high, being the principal peak. From the summit on a clear day it is possible to see over a distance of eighty miles of beautiful country washed by the ocean's waves; and the drive up reminds one a little of Switzerland—but a miniature likeness of course—the roads winding round the spurs of the hills, with lovely gullies between, and commanding splendid views at every turn. When I saw them, as it was early spring, they were green with verdure; but before I left, nature's coat had been turned into a rusty brown by the scorching rays of the summer's sun. Down in the gullies the lovely maiden-hair and many other ferns grow wild in great profusion.

The port is an uncomfortable place, dreadfully muddy in winter and blindingly dusty in summer, the Australian snow, as it is called, being blown from a long low line of sand hills which skirt the shore. The city exceeded my expectations, possessing as it does many wide streets and good buildings. It was laid out

by an old Waterloo officer, recommended by the Duke of Wellington. There is a fine Post Office and Town Hall, and the Government Buildings, Club House, and Banks put in a very creditable appearance.

It is astonishing how much the suburbs have grown and stretched out on all sides of the town; but of course these money-making people like their out of town residences, and being proverbially averse to walking anywhere, no doubt they think it more worth while to go well out of town than but a short distance.

The roads leading out into the suburbs are well kept by a road board, money being voted for the purpose from the public revenues.

Most of the houses are built all on one floor, with verandahs running right round them, and look very pretty nestled down among the trees. The plan of having no stairs is most charmingly lazy and agreeable.

Churches and chapels of every denomination surround one on all hands of every size and style; and if the power religion has over people is to be judged by the number of sacred edifices they contrive to raise, the Adelaideans must be a pious people indeed. There being no State patronage, each sect stands on an equal footing with the rest, and is self-supporting. The Congregationalists and Wesleyans appear to have the greater number of adherents and build the finest churches.

The climate is changeable, it being no uncommon thing for one to be able to bear very light clothing at one part of the day, and to require a change to quite

winterly garments at another, from the fickle wind shifting round to the south or south-west, which in that quarter of the globe is equivalent to our north or north-east.

The Eucalyptus, or gum tree, of which there are several kinds, the white, the red, the blue, and others, is *the* tree of the country. The foliage has a very pretty effect from a distance, being tipped with a golden brown, but soon grows wearisome to the eye, being almost entirely unrelieved by any other kind. One longs for the varied tints of an English landscape. The leaves are narrow and pointed, and grow edgewise on the stems, and when crushed in the hand give forth a faint but delicious odour. The native cherry differs from ours both in leaf and fruit, the latter being very small, with the stone growing outside, and having but little flavour. Fruit is so plentiful that it is thought little of, and often wantonly wasted. Vines grow out of doors, and orange, lemon, and citron tress perfume the air with the delicious scent of their flowers, or bow beneath the weight of the golden fruit. It is quite a pleasure to see with what enjoyment everything seems to grow, and people often prefer to leave their gardens very much to mother nature's sweet free will; one strong reason for this being, that labour is scarce and dear. In some are beautiful almond tree walks, and groves of lemon, citron, and orange trees, on the latter of which one can see both flowers and fruit at the same time.

Flowers, such as azaleas, camellias, the india-rubber plant, and the like, that must be nursed with such care in conservatories and hothouses in our cold and ungenial climate, are to be seen flourishing in the open air in that sunny land, while aloes grow wild, and arum lilies are so common they are often plucked up as weeds.

The market is supplied in the early summer with vegetables and fruit from the plains, and when the sun has dried up every green thing down below, the hills, in their turn, supply the people from their rich stores.

There is little or no twilight, the day closing in very rapidly.

It is well known that Australia is sadly deficient in singing birds; there is one called a minor which has a note not unlike our thrush, and there are native larks, though not quite similar to ours. The warbling magpie, the laughing jackass, making the woods resound with its peculiar note, the curlew, uttering its weird and mournful shriek, and all kinds of cockatoos, are the birds most commonly to be found.

The government appears to be democratic in principle, its policy being to stop emigration and let the working classes get the upper hand. Society is in a decidedly topsy-turvy condition; the men who are at the top of the tree are mainly those who have come from nothing, but from fortunate speculation have become moneyed men, while in several cases some out of good

families, and well educated, are to be found in quite menial employments.

I was invited to stay for a week with some friends at Port Elliot, a seaside place about thirty-five miles out of the town, which bids fair to become in future the queen of watering places. Glenelg is the most usual resort at present, on account of being a more convenient distance from Adelaide, a ride of twenty minutes in the train enabling one to reach it, while, until the iron road is made to Port Elliot, travellers thither have first to undergo four hours and a half in a coach along a very pretty but dusty road, an hour's detention at Strathalbyn, a Scotch township as the villages in Australia are called, and then two hours and a half's ride in a tram-car. This, with possibly children and luggage to look after, is no small consideration. We performed the journey as far as Strathalbyn in a light vehicle called a 'Spider,' somewhat resembling our English dogcart. I could not help thinking how suitable it would be to introduce it into our country, as then we should have both the 'Spider and the Fly!'

During the ride in the tram-car which followed, the driver stopped and killed a snake, and brought it to the window to show the passengers; it was not very large, but one of the deadly kinds.

A former governor tried to make the place a port; hence its name. The plan did not succeed, as the coast was found to be too rocky, but what was a disadvantage from a mercantile point of view was advantageous to

the lover of the picturesque, for the scenery is beautiful. It consists of a series of small bays, carpeted with fine soft sand, and formed by giant granite boulders, while to the right stretches far out to sea a rocky piece of land called the Bluff, and beyond are three islands, called Granite, West, and Sea Islands. There is nothing between the eye and the South Pole, and the waves break on the shore with a noise like distant thunder. Many varieties of shells and seaweed are to be found, as also a peculiar kind of sand, called gem sand, in which may be seen, by the aid of a microscope, minute atoms of diamonds, emeralds, rubies, &c.

While staying there I walked to Middleton, about two miles further along the coast, and saw some of the natives. One or two families live near, and they go amongst the whites trying to get light jobs of work to do. They wear portions of English clothing; the women, blankets round their shoulders, and short skirts made of any old piece of stuff they can get. They carry their babies in a kind of bag they contrive to make out of the blanket. Their dwellings are called wurleys, and from the outside look rather like beehives, being made of poles and sticks, and covered with sacking, or twigs interlaced with the poles. I peeped into one whose occupants were absent, but confess it looked most uninviting. I was warned to keep a respectful distance, lest I should have cause to regret my inquisitiveness, for, small as they seem, and incapable

of holding more than one human being, they not only shelter several people, but numerous other creatures which shall be nameless. The ashes of a wood fire were smouldering in the centre of the mud floor.

I was informed that there is an institution for the natives which was founded by a Bishop. It receives the young and educates and trains them for different employments, and then starts them in life, and having education and leading good and wholesome lives, many cheering results have been obtained. There is also a missionary to the race, stationed a few miles up country, who, assisted by his wife, labours most diligently, and with some measure of success.

We afterwards started on a delightful excursion up the river Hindmarsh, but it was destined to come to an untimely end through a lamentable change in the weather. The boys of our party had hired a boat, leaky it is true, and not spotlessly clean, but a steady old tub, as after experience thoroughly proved, and we set out with a serene sky above, and in possession of exuberant spirits. The scenery on the banks was lovely, and we in due time became accustomed to the idea that perhaps our young boatmen might upset our craft while performing their gymnastics in changing oars. It was no easy matter to steer our way along, as the river is narrow and very winding, and reeds and other water plants grow thickly in the stream on either side, and trees overhang and dip in their branches. After a time

we moored the boat, and while the boys went for a bathe, we ladies sat down to sketch.

Then came *tiffin*, and it was during that meal that 'a change came o'er the spirit of the scene,' and a violent storm of thunder and lightning burst upon us. We soon gathered together the remnants of the feast, and began to make a swift journey back. Then down came the rain—such a deluge, and we, three ladies, had just one umbrella and waterproof between us! We were like drowned rats when we reached home.

Land up country is cheap, being sold by government at about 1*l.* an acre, consequently there are large landed proprietors, but they are not necessarily moneyed men. The land is more remarkable for quantity than quality, and farmers who purchase land, especially in the northern parts, hoping, when they have cleared the ground, to get good crops, find themselves grievously mistaken after three or four years' experience. The first year's crop is generally very fair, but the second presents a considerable falling off, and so on till there is little or nothing to repay the labour and expense. The reason is that much of the land is nothing but sand, with a thin layer of earth on the top, formed by decaying vegetable matter, which is soon exhausted. Other portions consist of sandy soil, simply covered with low scrub, at present not fit for cultivation.

Water is scarce, and there is only one river of any particular size in South Australia — the Murray. Adelaide can boast of very nice Botanical Gardens,

laid out with great taste; and Dr. Schomberg, the curator, takes great interest in them, getting plants from other countries, and keeping the show of flowers very good.

The Post Office, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1867, is a fine building, with a tower 180 feet high, up which we toiled, or rather climbed like monkeys, to obtain a view of the city. The way up is first by staircase, but afterwards by perpendicular ladders, and these must be scaled in hand-over-hand fashion. In this tower a clock has lately been fitted with chimes, and some self-acting machinery by which the gas illuminating the clock is turned up or down as the daylight goes or comes. I was shown over the building by one of the telegraph clerks, and as I had not been in such a place before, found it very interesting, especially the system of telegraphing. The code is not difficult to learn, being composed of horizontal lines of different lengths and of dots. The clerk told me that while he was talking with me, so familiar were his ears to the sounds of the instruments, that he could gather scraps from each of the different messages which were being transmitted by about a dozen machines!

The clerks are on duty about four hours at a time, and when they come in the morning usually begin by saying 'good morning' to the clerks at the branch offices, and in the pauses between business carry on a conversation with those they know. There is a com-

munication with the Stockade, so that in the event of an outbreak or other emergency, a message can be sent for help to the heart of the city. Two clerks and a boy always sleep at the office, with an electric bell in the room, which continues to ring with praiseworthy persistency till it gets attended to. There is also a communication with the newspaper office opposite, so that should any home, foreign, or colonial news be received, advantageous to the press, with no message boys at hand to convey it, the communicator is used, and a messenger from the office comes over immediately. There is also an instrument by which, if any of the lines break, it is easy to discover which is the one, and another which acts as a lightning conductor, for without this any storm which broke over the city might cause considerable damage, and even loss of life.

I also made a tour of inspection through the Parliament House. There is a Legislative Council Hall, where the members of the Council, or Upper House, sit. It is not large, but as there are only about eighteen members, that is not necessary; then there is the Hall where the Lower House sits, which is a fine large place, fitted up with benches, so called, but really more deserving the name of sofas. There is also a gallery for observers, and a first-rate library for the exclusive use of the members.

There is a University which is yet in its infancy, but to which one gentleman subscribed 30,000*l.* and another 20,000*l.*; two Colleges, St. Peter and Prince

Alfred, the former an old established institution, if anything can be called old which belongs to a colony only in its 37th year, the latter a young and rising one, waiting, like many other such things, for funds to carry out all its ambitions; two Lunatic Asylums, a Hospital, and last, but not least in importance in the eyes of most people, a Cathedral in process of erection.

The locusts are increasing considerably, and in some years especially become quite a plague. The castor-oil plant is poison to them, and is, in consequence, cultivated by some persons in their gardens. House flies, as well as all other insects, abound to a most perplexing extent, but nature, in that matter also, steps in with a remedy in the shape of a curious little flower growing wild, of the same colour as the leaves called the fly-catcher, of the Drosera tribe. It is supplied with fine hairs, each covered with a sticky substance; the innocent flies go flitting past, brushing against the flowers, which instantly close, drawing them in and killing them. In the summer swarms of flying ants abound very often in the evening, and most unpleasant they are when they settle and drop their filmy wings. They run down one's neck, into one's eyes and mouth, and everywhere else that they are not wanted.

There are a few Hansom cabs in Adelaide, but the privilege of riding in them has not yet been extended to ladies, unless escorted by one of the 'lords of creation,' consequently a poor unprotected female like myself is compelled to hire what is called a four-wheeler,

but is really a wagonette capable of holding six or eight persons.

I had five days' experience of the much dreaded North wind, called the *hot* wind, and with good reason. All those who can stay in the house do so at such a time, and every door and window is kept closely shut, in order that the house may be as cool as possible under the circumstances. When they are opened the hot blast, as from a furnace, blows in, withering and scorching one up. The nights are scarcely cooler than the days, and to go to bed is not to go to sleep, but to toss about uneasily waiting for the daylight.

At the end of the third day the thermometer stood at 106° in the shade and 159° in the sun, and the locusts filled the air as thickly as snowflakes. If they make their appearance just before harvest, they do great mischief, in this way—below the ear of corn there is a small portion of the stem which keeps green longer than the rest; this they attack and eat through, dropping to the ground the almost ripe ears, which they do not touch.

CHAPTER III.

MELBOURNE AND NEW ZEALAND.

THREE months had now glided swiftly by, taken up with visits to different friends of whose great kindness and hospitality I cannot say enough. It was time therefore that I took my departure, the more so as I had originally only intended to spend three weeks in that part of Australia.

January the 12th I said 'good bye,' with many regrets, and went on board the little steamer 'Coorong,' bound for Melbourne. My spirits fell below zero, for I also left behind my friend with whom I had come out from England, and started away alone, a wanderer through the wide wide world.

To make matters worse, I, the hitherto capital sailor, fell a victim to *mal-de-mer*, and for the three days of our voyage, remained in a state of collapse. The Captain was an exceedingly nice man, and in his kind but somewhat rough way, looked after me, never passing on the deck without a cheery pleasant word. I also made the acquaintance of two ladies and a gentleman, and they showed me many kind attentions. But oh! the discomforts of the ladies' cabin, which was very small,

a mere slip, with a double line of berths one above the other. Imagine them all occupied by sick people, many of whom did not leave them all day, and you will be able to realise that when the time for retiring came, the air was anything but pure and the odours anything but agreeable. It needed a considerable amount of courage to turn in when night came.

We had a very fair passage as far as weather was concerned, and reached Melbourne early on Saturday morning. We should not have been so long but that this boat always stops at two ports, Lacépède and Macdonald Bay, to discharge and take in cargo.

The first familiar face I beheld was that of Mr. L——. Both he and my uncle W. had come down to meet me, but the latter had called at the Telegraph Office to hear if we were reported; he very soon made his appearance, however, and we got off easily and comfortably. I left the bulk of my luggage till Monday, when the steamer would have come alongside the wharf. We then went in the train to Windsor, the suburb where my uncle was living. My aunt gave me a warm welcome, and I then made acquaintance with three hitherto unknown cousins.

In the afternoon we went for a drive round some of the adjacent suburbs, and to one, St. Kilda, which is also a delightful watering place. There are some very fine private residences, though others are of a rather gingerbread style of architecture. The city strikes one as a wonderful place for its age. The streets are wide, well

paved and macadamised, and laid out at right angles, while handsome offices, clubs, and banks, and ever-increasing stores and warehouses, face one at every turn. It appears to be a very pushing, money-making place, and rather strongly tinged with the American element. The stir and bustle reminded one much of London, and was especially noticeable after the great repose of Adelaide, where the business portion of society seems to go about its work in a composed leisurely way. The shops in Collins Street would not be thrown far into the shade by those of Oxford Street, and from two till four in the afternoon, and from eleven till one on Saturdays, the 'world and his wife' turn out in best bib and tucker to see and to be seen; which, in colonial slang, is called 'doing the block.'

On Sunday I went to the Presbyterian church, which is a beautiful building. The pulpit is of white stone and handsomely carved. There being no gallery, it looks delightfully light and airy. The next day I was taken to see the Public Library and Picture Gallery adjoining. The former is a place of which the Victorians may be justly proud. They have a splendid collection of books ranged according to subject in separate alcoves, with tables and chairs in each for the readers. There is one table reserved for 'ladies only.' In the Picture Gallery, which is not large but well lighted, are pictures mostly by colonial artists, with a few also from the hands of our Royal Academicians, Goodall, Frith, &c.

There are park lands running right round the city, which are plots of ground of several acres in extent, reserved by government for building purposes, and laid out as public parks. Hospitals, churches, asylums, &c., flourish as in most cities of like size. There are botanical gardens, gardens of acclimatization, and gardens known by the name of 'Fitzroy,' Government buildings, and a Government House. This last is just new; in fact was not quite finished when I was there. It occupies a large space of rising ground, and can be seen from every part of the city. The style of architecture is not remarkable for beauty, and the number of rooms so great as almost to amount to an absurdity. Until its completion, the Governor was living in the Bishop's palace, he being absent on a visit to the old country.

The climate is very changeable, at least, such was my experience of it; for instance, one morning I went out in thin garments and was much too hot, and in the afternoon went for a drive, when the atmosphere was so close and heavy we had hardly energy enough to start, but the wind, which had been blowing from a northerly direction, suddenly shifted round to the south, a dust storm came on, enveloping the city and suburbs in one thick cloud, then rain, and the air became as cold as on an autumn day.

I had only been a week in Melbourne when I received an invitation to join some friends who were going for a trip to New Zealand, so again was on the move.

Our party consisted of four, and we started January the 26th, in the s.s. 'Alhambra.' But I will now quote from a letter sent to my friends at home.

'S.S. "Alhambra," *January* 29.

'Once more I commence my chat with you on paper, thinking, as I do so, how delightful it will be when I am able to have one with you by word of mouth. Meanwhile, I will do my best to let you know how I am getting on in my travels. As you will see, I write on board ship, bound for New Zealand, and we have now been at sea five days, all of which have been charming as far as weather is concerned, warm and bright, with not one drop of rain by night or day. Notwithstanding this, like almost everyone else, I have again disgraced myself as a sailor, and have made up my mind that probably that will be my line of conduct in all my future voyages. I take it, however, rather philosophically, and when certain sensations warn me that a speedy descent to my cabin would be desirable, I comply, and await my fate with calmness. All being over, I sally forth once more, as if nothing had occurred, until the next act of the drama has to be gone through. Scarcely any of the passengers are aware that I have fallen a victim, but compliment me on being so proof against the affliction, and I do not intend to let the cat out of the bag if I can help it. The boat is crowded with passengers, the stewards and stewardess being obliged to camp in the saloon and out-of-the-way places by night, and as many as four

passengers are crowded into one cabin. My friend and I are more fortunate, having engaged a cabin to ourselves betimes. She is a coasting steamer of small size, that goes right round the middle island, stopping at the different ports on her way for passengers and cargo. Her saloon and cabins are aft, so that in the event of a head wind we shall be favoured with a delightful combination of smells from engine-oil, and cooking! I am on speaking terms with several of the passengers, amongst whom are some I like much. Of those portions of humanity, children, we have a goodly number, some of whom are perfect geniuses at getting into mischief, though with space so limited, and the utter disregard which is shown by their parents and guardians of the duty of providing them with rational amusement, one cannot be surprised.

'February 3rd, 7.30 A.M. Here I am, perched-up in my berth writing, having got up at four this morning to see what is called the "French Pass," where the land on either side juts out so far into the sea, that as our boat steamed through we could have thrown a biscuit on to the shore.

'It was well worth turning out to see, and we had also the beautiful sight of the sun rising above grand scenery. We retired at a little after five o'clock, leaving clear decks for washing, and have each had a cup of coffee to warm us. The day is opening with some sharp squalls, the first unfavourable weather we have yet had.

'But now to go back a little and gather up my thread as usual. On Monday, the sixth day out, we first

sighted land, and reached the port of Hokatiki. On account of the sand bar we were unable to go right in, but were compelled to stand off and await the arrival of the tug, which brought several persons of position in the settlement, who were desirous of giving their welcome to Lady V., who had just returned from a trip to England.

'Meanwhile, our delighted eyes were introduced to a most lovely scene, the foretaste of what was to come, as we became more acquainted with this beautiful island. The landscape was a combination of Italy and Switzerland, with the warm, soft colouring of the one, and the rugged grandeur of the other. There lay stretched before us a range of snow-capped mountains, called the Southern Alps, from their resemblance to those of the Old World, while in front rose straight out of the sea others, lower but clad with verdure, and, in a hollow, peeped out the little township of Hokatiki.

'We next stopped at Greymouth, the scenery all along the coast being very beautiful. There also we landed some passengers and took in others, but unfortunately the latter were many more than the former, driving our pleasant little stewardess well-nigh distracted to know where to stow all the new-comers. She came to me in her distress to know whether my companion and I would object to have a Sister of Mercy occupy an improvised bed on the settee in our cabin. Neither of us quite relished the idea, but had not the heart to say "no;" accordingly she took possession and

lay down without disrobing. Imagine, therefore, what a spectacle of horror she presented in the night, when, chancing to wake up, I was startled by the close resemblance she bore to a corpse, with the stiff white binding round her head and under her chin, and a large white bib resting on her chest!

'All down the saloon, on both sides of the table and under as well, are mattresses, on which recline the forms of those luckless passengers who have not been fortunate enough to find empty berths, and the floor of the ladies' cabin has also had to be brought into requisition.

'Yesterday we touched at Nelson, where all the passengers landed, some "for good and a'," the rest merely to have a look at the place and its surroundings. I quite fell in love with it, for it is very pretty and the situation charming. It is nestled down amongst the mountains, and is sheltered from all cold and stormy winds. The houses, from a distance, look most of them like toy ones made of cardboard; the churches also have something of the same appearance, and many of them are built some way up the mountains.

'Nelson can boast of hotels, banks, a harmonic hall, a most inviting-looking hospital, and a lunatic asylum; also a college, a daily paper with its offices, reminding one dimly of Fleet Street, and a tram-line and cars. But I should shiver at the thought of having to settle down there, stagnation being the only thing staring one in the face. We roamed about the place in the morning and took a drive in the afternoon, which was

so lovely I can never forget it, then spent the evening with some friends, and came on board again at eleven o'clock, and were once more under way by 11.30.

'To-day we hope to reach Wellington, the capital and present seat of government, and shall probably stay two days.

'Friday, February 4th. I take my pen in hand as I sit in the hotel at Wellington, and proceed to tell my first impressions of the place. It is situated at the opening of a fine bay, with a semicircle of hills in the background. So far so good, but it is very land-locked, a serious disadvantage, I should think, for the chief city of a colony. Unlike Nelson, it has a bustling and work-a-day air about it; the former giving one the idea of having been founded by a people who were only playing at business and housekeeping. New government buildings are just being erected at a cost of 30,000*l.* They are of wood, that being the material almost exclusively used, for two reasons, the frequent occurrence of earthquakes, sometimes very severe, and the difficulty and expense of procuring stone, which can only be obtained at a considerable distance. I could not help thinking how disastrous a great fire would prove, especially aided as it very likely would be by a shifting wind. I am told that the arrangements for such an emergency are very good, but one knows how difficult it is to check the progress of a conflagration. The city consists of a main street of considerable length, with smaller ones leading out of it. The

Marquis of Normanby, the present Governor, has his residence at one end, and close by are the old government buildings.

'I have seen several of the natives, Maories as they are called; they are one of the finest of the uncivilised races, the men, as a rule, being tall, well-proportioned, and powerful. They are very intelligent, I am told, and have a keen sense of justice, and are not so treacherous and cowardly as some savages, even going so far as to warn people repeatedly before they attack them.

'Europeans can safely visit their homes or pa-pas, and mingle with them, receiving at their hands attention and courtesy. My informant was an English gentleman, a surveyor, who had lived in the country a long time, and who from the nature of his profession had mixed much with them. He was returning from a visit to Tasmania, where he had been to "get him a wife." He also told me he knew a Maori prince, quite a young man, who had had an English education, and amongst other accomplishments could count that of being a good dancer. He was a very powerful man, and able to lift from the floor two ordinary-sized men, one in each hand, and put them on a table, and that with apparently little exertion.

'The Maories have a voice in the government, and have even been found strong enough to turn out of office one whom they thought not sufficiently considerate of their interests; some of them are very good speakers.

Unfortunately they are gradually dying out before the inroads of the white man; unfortunately, I say, because one cannot help being sorry that so fine a race should become extinct.

'Like most people who have no written history, they have wonderful memories, and a Maori will recount with pride and considerable rhetorical power the sayings and doings of his ancestors. They soon reduced their language to writing in imitation of the settlers. Those I have seen have been dressed *à l'Anglais*, but with their faces tattooed all over.

'There is a railway made by government from Wellington (a distance of twenty-five miles) to a place called Silver Stream or Upper Hutte, and there is some talk of establishing tramways. There are two daily papers in circulation.

'The climate somewhat resembles that of England, only it is better. Wool and grain are the chief exports of the country, and hops grow to great perfection.

'February 14th. It is fully a week since I added anything to this epistle, but I have been prevented from so doing, first, by daily arrivals at different ports, and the last few days by being too sea-sick to "do" anything but the invalid.

'On the Sunday morning we left Wellington, and the next day at 4 A.M. reached Lyttleton, which is the port for Christchurch. We were very disappointed to have only a few hours allowed us to stay there, but directly after breakfast hastened off the boat and took

the train to Christchurch, a distance of about four or five miles. It contains 10,000 inhabitants, and is built in a very compact form on a plain, with outlying hills, most of them devoid of verdure, and some of the more distant ones sprinkled with snow. Running right round the town are what are called belt lands, and there are also park lands, dividing off the suburbs as in most colonial towns and cities. The Botanical Gardens are very well arranged, and I was told the Museum is an exceedingly good one, but was unable to see it, as on Monday, the day we were there, it did not open till late. One of our fellow-passengers, however, nothing daunted, called upon the director at his private house, and obtained permission to visit it. Christchurch is essentially an English settlement, just as Dunedin is Scotch.

'The next day Port Chalmers was reached, which stands in the same relation to Dunedin that Lyttleton does to Christchurch. There also to our mortification we found that we should have only a few hours on shore, the agents having advertised that the boat would *leave* on a date prior to that on which she *arrived*, and there also we had to go some distance by train, to reach the town. The first two miles of the line had been cut through the hills. Of all the ports we stopped at, we gave the palm to Dunedin; it is so prettily placed among the hills, the houses peeping out from snug corners on the rising ground. It has over 18,000 inhabitants, many of them being Victorians, which,

perhaps, partly accounts for its busy, thriving, go-ahead air. There are wide streets, some fine buildings, and pretty suburbs. Hansom cabs, too, they can boast of—imagine such things as these in New Zealand! Of course there is a Museum, and of course there are Botanical Gardens; the latter especially nice, situated a little way out of town, laid out with taste and well kept.

'The following day we stopped at the Bluff, the port for the town of Invercargill, and of that place I have brought away the most uncomfortable recollections. It is true I saw it under disadvantageous circumstances, as there was a gale blowing and rain falling the greater part of the twenty-four hours we were there. Still I cannot imagine it likely to inspire fervent admiration at the best of times. All the morning I had been sea-sick, as we had been favoured with a head wind, which had caused our small boat to perform most lively gymnastics, and me to collapse, and when we went on shore we had to struggle painfully against the boisterous wind, over the stoniest road, and then deposit ourselves weary and discomfited in the tram-car, which was to convey us over eighteen miles of most uninteresting country. Nor did our spirits rise when we reached our destination, for we found ourselves in a large straggling place, with wide dreary looking streets, up which the wind rushed wildly, dashing the stones in our faces, whirling us up against lamp-posts, blinding our eyes, filling our mouths with sand, and playing mad freaks

with our clothes, while it rained sufficiently to encourage us to put up umbrellas, only to have them turned inside out.

'We walked about to see what accommodation the place afforded to unlucky travellers, and soon decided upon a building which laid claim to being an hotel, but which, if I had been asked, I should have called an inn. On entering we were saluted by the disagreeable odours of onions and tobacco, were led up-stairs and ushered into rooms smelling so musty and fusty as to make us think that the windows had not been opened within the memory of man, and the whole building shook ominously with every gust of wind. The weather kept us prisoners till the evening, when we sallied forth, determined to defy the elements, but the walk proved so uninteresting we soon returned, and the next morning, nothing loth, left quite early and went back to our home upon the sea. There is a splendid farming district round Invercargill, and I have no doubt many attractions to the settlers, which we, in our passing visit, failed to note.

'Since we left, we have had, with the exception of a few hours, nothing but head winds and gales, one morning the wind blowing with almost hurricane force. We were unable to go on deck, as we were shipping such heavy seas, and the water poured down the companion ladder and came through the skylights on to the saloon table. The rolling was horrible, it was very cold and raining hard, the smell of engine oil and cooking

dreadful, and almost everyone ill, so that it was impossible to escape from the sounds and sights of sea-sickness. I performed my toilet in stages, but, once dressed, found a horizontal position the only safe one. It was no use to eat anything, much less to think of going to meals, so I cut them out of my day's programme. All that day and the next I was *hors de combat*, and began to have a fit of home-sickness into the bargain, and as a sort of climax to a list of small misfortunes, on going to bed that evening a sudden lurch of the vessel sent me full tilt with my head against the upper berth. I was too stunned at first to know that I was hurt, and the stewardess, who was in my cabin, lighting my candle, was afraid I had put an end to my career, but was relieved to find that I had not killed myself, only doubled up in a heap in the corner. She soon brought me to my senses, when the throbbing pain in my head announced to me which was the damaged part, and the loud singing in my ears caused me to wonder if the gift of hearing had been suddenly and lastingly taken from me. Time proved my comforter in that respect, and I had reason to be very thankful that I had come off with comparatively so little harm.

'My troubles did not end here, however, for on climbing into my berth I found to my dismay that the rain had been oozing in at the port, and soaked my bed and sheets so much that it would be unsafe to sleep on them. There was nothing for it but I must get out

again, and make my escape into the ladies' cabin, where the stewardess made me up a bed on one of the sofas across ships. Unfortunately I am not *six* feet long, and there being nothing but a sheet between me and the covering of slippery American cloth, the horrible rolling of the boat made me slip up and down all night long. At 6 A.M. the stewardess came in, and I, poor thirsty creature, hailed her arrival with joy, and after a drink of lemonade dropped off to sleep for the first time. It was a long while before my head could be treated with anything but the greatest respect.

'On the third day, the weather being in a better humour, we were able to go up on deck, and I do not know when I have enjoyed fresh air so much, having been a prisoner so long, and I slept "like a top" last night.

'February 23rd. We reached Melbourne last Thursday, and were by no means sorry; and on Saturday, there being "no peace to the wicked," I was trotted off on a visit, some eighty-five miles up country, to one of the finest sheep stations in Victoria.

'Though feeling very much inclined to do the lazy after such incessant gadding about, the chance of seeing this, one of the chief features of colonial life, was too good to be lost. The journey occupied about three hours and a half. The first part was through the northern outskirts of Melbourne, past the cattle market and abattoirs, which are most sensibly built quite out-

side the city, and can even boast a separate station, and on towards the range of distant hills, of which Mount Macedon is the most prominent.

'When they were reached we began gradually to ascend, and the scenery grew prettier; past acre upon acre of bush-land covered with the everlasting gum tree and low scrub, with little patches of land that had with patience been cleared and cultivated, and a little homestead built, or a solitary hut put up as a shelter for a woodcutter or shepherd. The country is very dry at present, but every now and then could be seen tiny lines of bright green amidst the otherwise dusky brown, which betokened the existence of a little brook or creek,

> "Washing with its silver hands,
> Late and early at the sands,"

and thus creating a little oasis.

'At times we came to large tracts of land, so sterile and stony that, as uncle said, it seemed as if giants had been playing at marbles there.

'I could not help thinking what kind of life the early settlers must have led, separated from their neighbours by many miles, and everything done by their individual exertions, and when towns and cities were not, only canvas tents and log huts. Indeed, from what I have been told by persons who came out here thirty or forty years ago, of the many inconveniences they had to put up with, and even hardships to undergo, it must have been no small sacrifice which a husband asked his

wife to make to emigrate with him. Unless one goes some miles outside Melbourne, it is hard to realise this, for the rapid strides that have been made in the city, in which respect, I believe Melbourne ranks among the first of all the cities of the world, makes one apt to forget it.

'When our railway journey came to an end, our delightful bush drive began, for Mr. Y. was at the station with his buggy and pair of horses, and away we sped on Johnny Gilpin's principle of not stopping at anything. The horses were certainly plucky, and for four or five miles we did not slacken speed even to walk up the hills, which though short were steep. Our road lay through the bush, but nothing short of personal experience will teach one what is meant by that term. Suffice it to say that bush tracks are, as a rule, deeply furrowed with watercourses, and have big stones and branches to break the monotony of the way. Over these a bushdriver goes as a London coachman over a smooth macadamised road, the only exception he makes being, when a tree has succumbed either to wind or weather, or its worse enemy a bush fire, and fallen across the road, *then* it is considered necessary to turn on one side to the dry and stubbly grass covered with patches of low bush, which crackles like tinder beneath the wheels.

'It was a most glorious evening; the setting sun, gleaming through the forest of young trees, and touching each with a friendly hand, made a lovely picture,

to which not even the most prosaic mind could have been insensible.

'I shall not venture to say how many acres the sheep run contains, but I shall, perhaps, give you some idea of its extent when I say that there are three railway stations upon it, and a township. It was very interesting to see all the arrangements connected with sheep farming. How, first of all, there were large pens, into which numbers could be drafted at a time, then smaller ones, and then smaller still, until at last there was but a narrow alley, into which the sheep could file one at a time, and where, as each arrived, it could be caught and plunged into the dip, which is a pond of water and sulphur used for curing the scab. There, having kicked about for a time, and been dipped entirely, head and all, it is allowed to struggle out, and run to the creek, which is close by. Fortunately, on this station the pond is stagnant from disuse, the dreadful disease having entirely disappeared from amongst the flocks. Then in another part are pens of different sizes in which to place the sheep when they are to be branded; in that case also they are made to pass under the men's hands in a most systematic manner.

'The shearing house, however, was the largest place, and with its attendant outhouses for the masters and men, made quite an establishment. It was a substantial brick building, with entire trunks of trees as pillars to support the roof. It contained the sweating room

(communicating with pens outside, into which the sheep are first driven), in which they are packed as tightly as sardines in a box, and kept thus all night. In consequence of their confined position they sweat profusely, this process being very beneficial to the wool. The next day they are drafted off, one by one, through narrow passages, portioned off by wooden rails and ending with doors, where men are stationed ready to receive with open arms each four-footed friend as it makes its appearance. It is then sheared, and when finished is pushed down a sloping tunnel, through which it finds its way to daylight again, and, I should say, is by no means sorry.

'I am told that it is very amusing to watch the young ones' stout rebellion against the process, while the old ones, having learnt the lesson that however much they kick the clipping goes on just the same, surrender themselves to their fate.

'There are above a hundred men employed at the same time in the shearing house, and those who do the most and do it best get extra pay as a sort of prize. The additional men needed at these times are supplied, as in hop-picking in Kent, by town hands hiring themselves out for the season, thereby gaining fresh country air and change of employment. But I must not forget to describe their sleeping places. In a large watertight shed are ranged all round the walls *berths*, I can call them nothing else, with, in lieu of mattresses, dried leaves, and in some cases, hollow trunks of trees

which form rude cradles. Truly primitive in style! In another wooden building were the dining rooms and kitchen. Tea here takes the place of the pint of porter with our English workmen, and no mid-day meal would be thoroughly furnished without the "cup that cheers, but not inebriates." On this station, and I believe now on most others, they have attained to the luxury of bread, but until recently, damper was the substitute, that being simply flour and water mixed together, and baked in the ashes of a wood fire.

'I have not had the good fortune to see a kangaroo while I have been in the colonies, nor a dingo, or wild dog, but I have seen a bush fire, and that close at hand. It broke out on the Sunday afternoon, but was quickly checked because quickly discovered. Mr. Y. was soon in the saddle and off for the scene, calling on his way for aid, and labouring himself with might and main, cutting down the bush to windward of the conflagration. It is not the most pleasant work, especially at noon on a hot summer's day, the heat scorching, the smoke suffocating, and the whole thing most exhausting.

'I returned to town yesterday, and this morning have been visiting the Acclimatisation Gardens, and as a necessary consequence have returned dead beat. They are very good, but I cannot say that I have a fondness for staring at monkeys, or animals of any kind, even though they be my ancestors—according to Darwin.

'I was very much afraid I should have to go up to Mr. Y.'s without my letters, which were due that day,

but to my delight found them awaiting me at my uncle's office when we called on the way to the station. Such budgets! and all the more enjoyable because they were the first I had been able to have from you in answer to mine.

'I have met with the greatest kindness from all to whom I took letters of introduction, and much also from persons with whom I have by chance made acquaintance. I find it quite difficult to fit in all the invitations I have received.

'This long epistle must now come to an end, as the mail is leaving.'

CHAPTER IV.

MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, AND SINGAPORE.

THE town hall of Melbourne is a handsome building, and beautifully decorated within. The Victorians are especially proud of the organ, which is a splendid one. It was built in London, and the makers came over to put it up. The buildings are chiefly of the native stone called blue stone. The suburbs are very nice, Toorak being the best. It is on high ground, and has a good view of the bay and William's Town. Society is of the same mixed character to be found in most colonial cities, wealth more than anything else being the passport. The careers of many of the citizens have been strange ones; for instance, a man may have gained great wealth in a short time, enjoyed it for a shorter, and ultimately come down lower than he started, even in some cases to beggary.

On the 28th I went with my uncle to the agent's office, to secure my berth in the steamer which would take me from Sydney to Singapore, it being advisable to do so thus early as the boats are often crowded. This I was able to do in Melbourne, and the passage money includes the trip thence to Sydney by any of the coast-

ing steamers one likes to choose. I had just missed the February mail, and the next steamer I found would start from Sydney about March 25th, her name the 'Singapore.' That done, I proceeded to the agent's office for Money Wigram's, and made arrangements for sending home one of my boxes, filled with now useless luggage.

On March 7th I was off again with my uncle on a visit to Ballaarat, the intervening time since my return from New Zealand having been taken up with visits to friends. It is the third city for size in the Australian colonies—Melbourne ranking first, Sydney second—and is situated in the midst of the great mining district of Victoria. A few years ago, its population exceeded that of Sydney, being 80,000, but that was in the time of the mining rush.' It has now dwindled down to 50,000. It considered it had a right in its most prosperous days to be the capital of Victoria, and was dubbed by some newspaper the 'Pivot,' a name which still clings to the place in irony. It is about a hundred miles from Melbourne, and a four hours' journey by rail. Some friends hearing of our arrival would not permit me to stay at the hotel, but offered me a room at their house. I was astonished at the appearance of the place, which is large, thriving, and bustling. It is only when you go outside the city that you realise that it is not in some respects what it has been; the mounds of cast-up earth and heaps of wash-dirt everywhere around, with machinery, some in use and some lying idle, give such a forlorn and God-forsaken look to the land. Each piece of ground thus

occupied is called a claim. The next day our friend gave up his time and his wagonette entirely to our service, and drove us round the neighbourhood to some of the principal mines, explaining everything most patiently and thoroughly, I wish I were able to do the same again, but that is impossible.

The first we visited is called the 'City of Ballaarat;' it is in the early stage of searching for the gutter of gold, and is consequently being worked in the dark in more senses than one, the shareholders meanwhile waiting and hoping, and submitting to calls. They have sunk the shaft over 500 feet, and have commenced working through the fourth, and, as they hope, the last stratum. Between the third and fourth is a large quantity of water, some three or four feet in depth, which they are obliged to keep pumping up by day and night, and which is constantly being replenished from the upper strata, through which it drains. The men have to work up to their waists in water, and when both pumps are working, 216 tons of water are brought to the surface every minute, and if either were to cease pumping while the men are at the lowest level, they would be overwhelmed in a few minutes.

To prevent such an accident, the miners have a code of signals, and when for any reason one of the pumps has to be stopped while the men are below, an iron hammer is struck a certain number of times at the mouth of the mine, by which they know they are to come to an upper level. It is rather terrible to think

that the lives of the men depend on the hammer being struck exactly the right number of times, or on their counting them correctly. The pump is worked by self-acting machinery, made in Cornwall, and shipped out here. Here I may as well add, that very good machinery is made in Melbourne and in Ballaarat, some of which I saw in woollen mills a little way out of the city, and the gentlemen of our party pronounced them worthy of any foundry in the mother country. The railway carriages in which we travelled thither were of Melbourne manufacture and well fitted up, by which it will be seen that native industries are not languishing.

The next claim I went to see was called 'The Band of Hope,' and had been in the past one of the most productive in the district, as much as 50,000*l.* being gained from it in one week. Its palmiest days were just when the Duke of Edinburgh visited the colonies. Now it is not much more than paying its working expenses. Some weeks show a rather better return when they strike upon a small vein of gold, but the results are almost as variable as the weatherglass.

Here I was able to see some of the first processes for getting at the gold in alluvial soil. After being brought to the surface in trucks, the wash-dirt is emptied into a round iron tub, filled with water, in which are several rakes, as I shall call them for want of a better word; these are set in motion by machinery, and as they revolve they break up the lumps. The large stones are then thrown out, and the finer sub-

stance containing the gold is put into a wooden trough, called a 'Long Tom,' at one end of which is a water tap. The water is turned on, and the gold being the heavier, sinks to the bottom, the rest being carried into a waste heap outside. These heaps are called 'tailings,' and are picked over by the Chinese, who, being possessed of a stock of patience well-nigh inexhaustible, are only too glad to do it, although not more than once in two or three days will they come upon any of the precious metal, and then in but small particles, so thoroughly has the work been done.

Our next visit was to the 'Countess' mine, where the ore has to be got at in quite a different way, being found in quartz. The quartz is put under what are called stampers. They are like the pistons of an engine, weighing about 350 pounds, and work up and down, crushing it to fine powder, which then flows through water over coarse flannel, for the purpose of catching any fine particles of the gold that may have found a lodgment in the material. These pieces of flannel are then taken up and washed, and the sediment coming from them mixed with quicksilver and well shaken about in a sort of pan. The quicksilver dissolves the gold, and having been separated from the sediment is converted by means of heat in a retort into vapour, leaving the gold behind. Afterwards the quicksilver is condensed in a receiver, and so brought back to its former condition for similar use again. Thus ended my pilgrimage to the mines.

The next day we went a long drive into the country, which was most delightful, returning in time to catch the train to Melbourne, where we arrived at 12.30 P.M., not a little tired.

We came back to a few days of really hot weather, of the kind usually to be had during an Australian summer, but otherwise my experience of the climate was peculiar, the season having been wet and cold, even necessitating occasional fires in the month of December.

Just at this time I received the news that the 'Singapore' was not going, but her sister ship the 'Bowen.' It made no difference to my arrangements, however, as the agents transferred my berth.

Of Melbourne Parliament and politics I will say but little, on the principle that 'the less said the better.' While I was in the colony such disgraceful scenes were enacted that one could only wonder if the honourable members were not wild beasts instead of men; in fact, matters had come to such a crisis that, on one occasion, a member of the opposition, having used extremely abusive language, the other members thought fit to imprison him in a portion of the House for two or three days, allowing him visitors *ad libitum*, and food at his own expense, but no exit on any pretence whatever. Just imagine such a repetition of the experiences of childhood, with its punishments, for the governors and administrators of a colony!

There is a museum in connection with the University, and to that I paid a visit as in duty bound. The

collection is large and well arranged, the animals and birds being placed amidst representations of their natural haunts, with specimens of the kind of food on which they subsist. This plan adds considerably to the interest.

There is one peculiarity about the streets which I have not yet remarked upon, and that is the open drainage, requiring the gutters, which are paved with stone, to be deep and wide, to allow for the large volume of water that rushes along after a shower of rain; also long and arched foot-bridges, under which sometimes children, who have slipped off the kerb while playing, have been carried by the force of water, and suffocated before rescued.

The steamer in which I was eventually to go from Sydney to Singapore was lying in port in Melbourne, so I took the opportunity to go and look at my future home. It all seemed very nice, but the punkahs in the saloon showed plainly that we must expect heat in no small degree. The chief steward and stewardess were European, the rest of the servants all Chinese. I learnt to my horror that the ship was overrun with cockroaches and went away sadder and wiser than I came, for if there is one thing more than another of which I am frightened, it is a cockroach. I was haunted night and day with the prospect before me. Do not laugh, because cockroaches were formidable enemies to a girl who was going round the world alone, for I have heard of a famous English general who had a similar antipathy to cats.

Another week having passed, the time arrived for me to say farewell once more to kind friends, and depart again on my journeyings; this time, however, going forward to entirely unknown faces as well as lands.

I will again quote from a letter written just after I arrived at Sydney:—

'Petty's Hotel, Sydney, March 24th.

'Here I am, safely on land, but must go back in my account to tell you a little about my sea trip. On the 20th, Monday, I went on board the "Wentworth," and a friend having kindly introduced me to the captain, he promised to look after me to the best of his ability. We had a goodly number of passengers, amongst them a lady on her way from England to Sydney to be married, and we soon became friendly, which helped me somewhat to shake off an attack of what is commonly known as "the blues," which had taken hold of me. Very few were ill, and your humble servant not amongst the number. We were eight poor unfortunates in the ladies' cabin, which, as usual, afforded but limited accommodation, and one must indeed be possessed of a good stock of patience and philosophy on such occasions; for, with scarcely a hook on which to hang anything, not an inch of space on which to put anything down, a dim religious light, a close atmosphere, and the uneasy motion of the vessel, which at first is very perplexing, things do not assume a *couleur*

de rose aspect. My berth also I found already occupied by weevils, small cockroaches, and other tormentors, by no means desirable companions. Nothing worthy of record occurred during the voyage, and on Wednesday at midnight we entered the "Heads." It was most disappointing that I should thus lose the chance of seeing the wonderful harbour of which I had heard so much, but I shall hope that my departure will be made at a more favourable time. There was the customary bustle and excitement, a few of the passengers going off, even at so late an hour, while others, who were expecting friends to meet them, were on the *qui vive* to know if they had come.

'My friend Mr. L. had written to a gentleman asking him to be kind enough to meet me on my arrival and take me to the hotel; and I received a letter from him containing the staggering news that the "Bowen" had left the day before, and just a week before her advertised time for sailing; but, as nothing could be done that night, and quiet once more reigned supreme, I thought it best to go to sleep and forget all worries till the morning.

'By five o'clock everyone was astir, and in an hour or so afterwards the ship was deserted, with the exception of this poor little woman, who awaited the arrival of her unknown friend. The officers, seeing my forlorn condition, sent a kind and pressing invitation that I would join them at breakfast, which I did; and at nine Mr. W. made his appearance. I soon contrived to get

my baggage extricated from the heap that had been roughly tossed into a shed close by, and having seen it safely into a truck, we jumped into a hansom cab and drove to the hotel.

'I am extremely comfortable here, and the proprietor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Zahl, show me every kindness in their power. I found to my joy and rejoicing that Mr. W. had been so very kind as to go the day before to the agents for the truant steamer, and with considerable trouble succeeded in getting my berth transferred to the "Singapore," which is to leave on Tuesday next, and which is, strangely enough, the very steamer in which I first took my passage. It was a very great relief, for I had been told that I should not stand a chance of securing a berth in her, as she was already so crowded, and if I did not, I must have remained here a whole month. Imagine my being stranded thus alone for so long; even to contemplate it, is too dreadful. That matter satisfactorily arranged, and my new-found friend being compelled to leave, but promising to look me up again the next day, I set to work to gain information about the different expeditions it would be desirable for me to make in the city and neighbourhood.

'I had been advised, nay, even commanded by kind and zealous acquaintances, to put first and foremost the trip by the zigzag railway up the Blue Mountains. My time being so limited, I found, to do it at all, it must be done that day, so laid my plans accordingly. I

despatched a telegram to the proprietor of the small hotel up at Mount Victoria, where I should have to spend the night, to engage a room, being advised to do so by Mr. Zahl in order to avoid the catastrophe of an unprotected female finding herself at ten o'clock at night unable to get shelter at the only inn the place afforded.

'That done, I sallied forth to see a little of the city, and perform some of that most necessary part of woman's work, shopping! Then back to lunch, afterwards out again to make a call on a lady to whom I bore a letter of introduction, and thence to see the Botanical Gardens, which I had been told I must on no account fail to visit. They are most beautiful, for, as they skirt the shores of one of the numerous bays, they possess Mother Nature's greatest charm, water. Almost every variety of tree grows there in the open air, though several were languishing on account of a two years' drought from which Sydney has been suffering.

'I returned from the gardens in time to get an early tea, and start off at 5 P.M. to catch the train which left at 5.15. Then followed five hours of lonely travelling, as I was the only occupant of the ladies' carriage, wherein I roamed backwards and forwards looking at the lovely views on either side, till the relentless darkness came down, which it did in an hour's time, and before we had come to the more beautiful scenery. It was tantalising, but I tried to console myself with the thought that on the morrow, if all went

well, I should be able to see it by morning light. Time, however, hung heavily on my hands, for four hours are apt to prove monotonous, spent simply in one's own company and with nothing to do, the light being too dim for me to see to read.

'Soon after ten o'clock the train drew up at a little station, and the guard, who had paid me occasional visits, came to announce that I had arrived at my destination. I jumped out, feeling tired, cold and dreary, and with a great sinking of heart at the prospect before me. There were numbers of men on the platform, most of whom I found to my relief were going on further, but had stepped out to stretch their legs, and get a glass of "something hot." For a moment I hesitated as I looked forth into the darkness of that unknown land, and then remembering that it would be very foolish to start off in quest of the hotel without the slightest idea as to which direction to take, I accosted the guard and asked him to be good enough to put me in the way. He was proceeding so to do, when another man came up, who begged my pardon for interrupting, but said he was going there himself, and would gladly show me. I hesitated, unwilling to resign myself to the guidance of a stranger, when the guard, guessing at my doubts, dispelled them by saying—"Oh, that's all right, Miss; he's the Boots;" the individual himself adding, "Are you the lady who telegraphed for a room?" thus setting my mind at rest.

'He had some luggage to see to, so I waited for a

few minutes, and we then set off, making for some lights that were twinkling in the distance. By some chance remark of mine on the roughness of the way, my companion learnt that I had but recently come out from London, and abruptly turning to me said, "If it be not too rude, may I ask from what part you come?" I told him; and then found that he had lived there himself at one time. He immediately asked by name after several of our neighbours. I had been much surprised at his manners and style of conversation, neither being of the kind usually connected in one's mind with the "Boots" of a country inn; but the matter was now explained, and I had come across one of the many instances of the topsy-turvy state of society in the colonies, where persons of good family in the mother country are to be found occupying menial positions out here.

'On arriving at the hotel I was shown to a tiny room, which contained just a bed, one chair, a wash-hand stand, and a dressing table; on the latter stood a looking glass, which, though small, took up so much of the table as to leave but about two inches of available space on which to lay anything. No superfluity in the way of furniture, nor, as I afterwards discovered, of cleanliness! The window opened out into the passage of the house, and the door, of which the top part was glass, would not latch securely. A dirty yellow blind was drawn half way down, and could only be raised if the occupant of the room was content to be exposed to the

gaze of the passers to and fro. The same applied to the window.

'The servant who showed me to my room was scarcely inclined to be civil, not deeming it worth her while, I suppose, to wait upon a solitary individual like me, and seemed surprised that the cravings of hunger should compel me to order some supper, but as I had tasted nothing since 4.30, and it was then nearly 10.30, I was not surprised myself. However, she brought me some light refreshment, and I was not sorry soon after to retire for the night, as the day had been long and fatiguing.

'During the process of undressing, my attention was attracted to the strangely black appearance of the top of the candle, and on stooping to examine it more narrowly I found, to my great disgust, that in a grave of hot and melting tallow were the bodies of about ten or twelve unfortunate insects, evidently buried by a former visitor, who had been engaged in a "slaughter of the innocents!"

'I guessed what would be my fate, and after experience proved that my suspicions were but too well founded. Sleep was out of the question, and I spent the night in a warfare with my enemies. Emerging from my room next morning for breakfast, the "Abigail" again seemed inclined to be rebellious, telling me that I could not have it for a long time yet, but on my calmly replying that I would be glad to speak to the

landlady, she mended her manners, and proceeded to supply my wants swiftly and pleasantly.

'The meal over, I paid my bill and set off for the second zigzag. Thus early in the morning the traveller has no choice but to go by luggage train, to which a very third-rate kind of carriage is attached, and on this occasion I was the only passenger. It was a lovely day, and the view on all sides charming. I was then about 1,500 feet above the sea, with nought but hills and gullies around me.

'The railway is a wonder of engineering skill, and is made of many zigzags, as its name denotes, up and along the range of Blue Mountains, the greatest height to which it goes being about 3,600 feet above the level of the sea.

'At three places it is conveyed over stone viaducts, and passes through a tunnel cut out of the solid rock. The mountains certainly deserve the name they bear, so intensely blue do they look in the distance. Indeed it was difficult, the day I went, to mark the boundary between them and the sky. They are mostly clothed to their summits with forests of the everlasting gum, the brown-tipped foliage of which on the nearer hills adds a charm to the picture.

'In numerous places the eye was attracted to thin clouds of blue smoke slowly rising from below, showing that bush fires were in existence. I so wished you were all with me to enjoy the scene!

'We reached the top at 11 A.M., and finding that I

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had an hour and a half before the train would start back again, I sauntered along to see what was to be seen. I soon came upon some tweed mills, and boldly entering discovered the owner, who very kindly took me over, explaining everything, showing me samples of the work done, and finally waxing eloquent upon the subject of some new machinery which he was having made in England and shipped out here.

'The journey back to Sydney was also delightful, and at 7 P.M. I once more reached the hotel, somewhat weary, but having thoroughly enjoyed the expedition.

'The next day I went up the Paramatta river in a small excursion steamer. It was a pleasant little trip, but would have been more so if the day had been cooler and I had had companions. Out of respect for the thermometer I would gladly have postponed the expedition, but "time and tide wait for no man," so I defied the weather. The boat was very crowded, and in consequence of the intense heat the awning was obliged to be let down on all sides, shutting out the view. Occasional glimpses revealed all things bathed in a quivering atmosphere of heat, and the water was too dazzling to look at, and covered as if with flashing diamonds.

'The return journey, however, was far more pleasant, for the sun had gone to bed, leaving only a trail of glory behind, and the scenery looked very pretty as the lengthening shadows crept over the land. Before we reached Sydney darkness had come suddenly down, which rather discomfited me; but I had been told there

would be cabs for hire at the landing-stage, so determined to hasten off the boat and try and secure one. To my dismay, the four that were there were all engaged, so the only course before me was to walk back to the hotel, along some of the least pleasant streets, in the dark and alone.

'The next day was Sunday, and a lady to whom I had a letter of introduction called to go with me to church; and after service I went home with her to spend the remainder of the day, and enjoyed myself exceedingly.

'On Monday I went for a drive in and about Sydney, which is very different from either Melbourne or Adelaide, with not a ghost of a plan in the way it is built, and looking as if it had grown in a promiscuous sort of fashion. It stretches along the shores of several of the small bays which form the harbour, so that only a part of it can be seen on landing, and that reminds one very much of a seaport town in England. A very irregular straggling sort of place, with the streets running about in most tortuous and perplexing ways, and the houses preserving the same charming unevenness. They are stuck about in all sorts of odds and ends of places, and in every other position except straight in a row; some on jutting pieces of rock or portions of rising ground, and others just below, so that stepping out of the back door of those above, you could almost walk on to the roof of those beneath. In many parts, too, a strange medley of new and old buildings, rich and poor, high and

low, is to be found ; a "highly desirable" residence being neighbour to a tumble-down cottage or small general store. On the heights overlooking the glorious harbour are many large private houses standing in their own grounds, each of which must possess a splendid view. In the evening I went again to Miss W.'s, and had the treat of a couple of hours' music, as she plays and sings delightfully.

'This morning (Tuesday), Mr. W. most kindly sent in his buggy that I might drive out to the "Heads," and see the harbour. The weather was perfection, warm and still, and each turn of the road afforded fresh glimpses of pretty scenery. The coachman told me the names of the bays as they came in sight, and of the hills in the distance. Having reached the top we stopped to rest the horses close to the edge of the cliffs, and listened to the lapping of the lazy waves far down below us. We got back just half an hour ago, and I must now finish this letter and post it, as I have to say farewell to Sydney and go on board this afternoon.'

'S.S. "Singapore," Thursday, March 30th.

'My last letter came to an abrupt termination on Tuesday, and I now begin another, which will be a sort of journal during the voyage. We have been at sea now two days, and are therefore beginning to settle in and get acquainted with each other and with our new quarters. But I will, as usual, go back to where I left off, and gather up the thread of my doings. Not an idle

minute was allowed me on Tuesday, for the hour left between my return from the drive and luncheon was fully occupied in concluding and despatching my letters and packing. Then, tiffin over, a friend called to take me out for a drive, which was necessarily a short one, as I had to be back again at the hotel by three o'clock, the hour fixed for my departure for the ship. Mr. W. had promised to call and convey me and my baggage on board. As I drew up with my friend at the door, he jumped out of a hansom cab, so I had but just time to run in and pay my bill, and "count my treasures o'er" in the way of luggage, and then off again.

'At the wharf all was bustle and excitement, but on this occasion greater than usual, in that the quay was crowded with men, women, and children who had assembled to bid farewell to a beloved French Roman Catholic priest who was going home for his health. As he passed along their ranks, the eagerness to receive a parting blessing from him was most touching—men even falling on their knees before him, and with tears running down their faces, catching his hand to place it on their heads. It was no easy matter to jostle one's way along, keep one's own luggage in sight as it was being shipped, and escape being killed or wounded by other people's.' In due time, however, "my little all" was safely housed—one small portmanteau in the cabin and the rest in the hold—and as my kind friends had done all they could for me, they said "good bye," and

left. The confusion continued till five o'clock, when we got really under way.

'It is at such times that I feel my loneliness so much, when I have no one to speak to, surrounded by fresh faces, and about to drift away from all those I have known. In this case the feeling was enhanced, as I did not even know the captain, nor had I a letter of introduction to him. I summoned up courage, however, and introduced myself, and found him very kind and pleasant.

'We have a very large number of steerage passengers, 450, almost all of them diggers—the roughest of the rough—bound for Cooktown, where there has lately been a rush. Many of them are Chinese.

'We are also much crowded in the saloon, some of the passengers having to sleep on improvised beds in the wheel-house, and others occupying the officers' cabins. The first evening the diggers were in a decidedly lively state, the result of friends' farewell treats; but one night at sea sufficed to tame them down wonderfully.

'The purser tells me their place is quite a sight at night, every seat and even the floor being put into requisition for sleeping: and preparing the meals for so many hungry mouths is no small undertaking. They *will* have their wants attended to, whatever inconvenience it may cause to others. However, they will be leaving us in about five days.

'I am in the ladies' cabin with eight others, a French

lady and two French children among the number. They jabber unceasingly, and, I am sorry to say, have not learnt that "cleanliness is next to godliness," about a tumblerful of water sufficing for each for her morning's ablutions. They spend so much of their time in their berths that the cabin has very little chance of getting aired. Directly tiffin is over they take up their abode there, remaining till between four and five o'clock. The charms of dinner then entice them forth, but 8.30 P.M. finds the lady preparing to retire for the night, the children having gone to bed even earlier. They also seem to have laid a wager as to who can eat the most at meals, so are to be found seated at the table before the bell has ceased ringing, ready to grasp the dish nearest to hand as soon as the covers are removed.

'The cabin is as large as a good-sized linen cupboard, being just long enough for two berths on either side, with another above each, and a very narrow passage-way between them. It is even now dreadfully close at night, but of course will be more so when we are fairly in the Tropics. Truly a pleasant prospect!

'There is no place to lay anything down upon, consequently my garments have to be stowed away at the foot of the berth, on my toes; and other necessaries, such as pincushion, hand-towel, &c., I have to fasten to the curtain of my berth, and share a hook with the stewardess on which to hang my dress and hat. I cannot *sit* up in my berth, as the upper one comes down

too low. I am only too thankful that there are not very many cockroaches in this ship, and up to the present I have not come across one.

'All the servants are Chinese, the head steward and stewardess English. The "boys," as the Chinese are called, cause us much amusement at meal-times, for their knowledge of English not being very extensive, they do not always understand what we say we will have, and it therefore becomes a matter of speculation as to what they will *think* we said. But they are very willing and anxious to please, quick and quiet in their movements, and look very like girls in their long loose white garments and their carefully-dressed pigtails. Their clean shaven faces, I think, also help to foster the delusion. Our crew consists of several nationalities, Malays, Chinese, Negroes, &c.

'Our passengers present the usual diversities of character, some of which are especially amusing. We have a splendid specimen of the swell of the day, faultless in attire, perfect in the art of doing nothing, quite unable to pronounce the letter *r*, well up in the fashionable drawl, and to my mind thoroughly uninteresting. It is droll to listen to his remarks, if only to hear how little sense he, by any chance, puts into them. One of his greatest accomplishments certainly is small talk; and as he generally makes a point of agreeing with you in everything you say, you can with a little clever management get him hopelessly involved in the expression of his opinions, by making him state in almost one

breath that he likes and dislikes the same thing. We also have girls of the period, invalids, funny men, ladies' men, men who only care to smoke, play cards and quoits, and children.

'April 3rd. We are progressing favourably, the weather splendid, and the sea like glass. With the exception of two days, we have been surrounded by lovely islands, which make the scenery a perpetually shifting thing of beauty, and so much pleasanter than the usual dreary monotony of sea and sky experienced on most voyages. The "Torres Straits" route is one of the most difficult for navigation, the numerous coral reefs and small islands making a formidable array through which to steer safely. We have made several calls at ports, which have also added variety to the voyage, first at Brisbane, where we lost some passengers and gained others, and where I was disappointed not to land, but there was not time. Then Keppel Bay, where another change of passengers was effected; then Bowen, and now this morning Townsville, and to-morrow, if all be well, we shall touch at Cooktown. This morning, while stopping at Townsville, one of the tubes of the boiler burst, surrounding those of us who were on deck with steam, and detaining us a little while. No further harm ensued, except a shock to the nerves of some of the passengers. Our numbers are so great now that we are compelled to have relays of meals, but many will soon be leaving. The heat is increasing very much. We have been in the Tropics just two days. Our cabin

does not seem to grow cooler, although we have lost one of the occupants, who went ashore at Brisbane. I have asked the purser if he thinks he can find me a spare berth in one of the other cabins when we lose some of our passengers, and he has promised to do his best. It would be a most delightful change, as every day seems to make my present position less bearable.

'April 6th. Three days ago we reached Cooktown, where we had to land all the diggers, over four hundred, in small boats, the steam-tug having been wrecked a few weeks back. It took several hours to get them all on shore. There was such crowding and pushing and squeezing down the steps into the boats as they came alongside. Some nearly slipped between, and to escape the wetting gave sudden jumps, and consequent tumbles, on to unfortunate comrades. Each man carried his "swag," and many dragged reluctant and frightened dogs after them, which were to mount guard over the claims. The boats, of course, had water at the bottom, so that the men's clothes must have been decidedly moist by the time they landed. From the kind of "swag" they carry it is not difficult to see who are old hands at the work and who are novices, some of the latter having their clothes in small portmanteaux, while the old ones strap them into a bundle, and have a spade, a tin cup and platter, &c., and sometimes a gun.

'We were *so* glad to get rid of them, especially the few who were in our saloon, for diggers are nearly always hard drinkers, and these formed no exception to the

rule. One man especially had been tipsy the whole day before, and at night was so unsteady in his walk on deck that, as he passed and repassed me, I felt very thankful that he had not launched himself into my lap, and at last shifted my quarters, so as to avoid such a possible catastrophe. The next morning he came and sat down in his place at breakfast just opposite to me, with bleared eyes and stupid countenance, having forgotten to complete his toilet, and wholly innocent of such a thing as a collar. He had to be lowered into the boat most carefully, having contrived to make himself pretty helpless by the time it was his turn to land. I never realised until now what a terrible curse drink is. On the steamer coming from Melbourne, there was a passenger unable to leave his cabin till the last day from the same cause. We took on board at Cooktown a poor Chinaman who was so ill with fever and ague he could hardly move, but he was very happy, because on his way back to the Flowery Land.

'Yesterday we came upon a lightship, which has been lately placed at one of the most dangerous points. The captain gave orders for the engines to be stopped, that the three men who live in her might come off to us in a boat. It is a terrible life of banishment for them, and communication with passing ships is therefore a pleasant change. Some ship's stores, a struggling sheep, half of another, and a packet of used-up novels and papers, were lowered into the boat and most thankfully accepted. With them went also the promise from

the captain that, if all went well, he would do the same on his return. During this parley we found our ship had got surrounded by a number of natives in their bark canoes, which they paddle most curiously. They were screaming, chattering, and gesticulating like so many monkeys. Their knowledge of English is just sufficient to enable them to beg for tobacco and biscuits, which last they pronounce as "bissiky." These wants we supplied, and received in exchange some pieces of tortoise-shell, one of which the purser gave to me. They baled the water out of their frail barks with beautiful shells.

'The heat being very great, their style of dress was rather enviable, the one garment consisting of a piece of rope, or what looked like it, tied round their arms. They knock out one of their front teeth when they arrive at manhood. The race is becoming extinct before the march of civilisation.

'We were hove to most of last night on account of the difficult navigation, and at about seven o'clock this morning reached Somerset, which is the north-eastern extremity of Australia, and becoming famous for its pearl-fisheries. The bay is very narrow, so that the two cannons we let off as signals sounded tremendously. We have had to discharge a good deal of cargo, and to receive some, and also leave behind four large boats, which we had brought with us but were not sorry to lose. We had rain last night, and more this morning, very heavy, but it has not perceptibly cooled the air, and the heat is intense. The punkahs are in active

exercise, and without them meal-times would be unbearable. Sleep is impossible at night, except during the latter part, as one lies in a sort of tepid bath. I find I cannot have a cabin after all, because it would necessitate a gentleman removing to one of the other cabins, and this change he is not willing to make. It happens that this same individual, who is a foreigner, has been extravagant in his thanks to me, because, as he said, "I put up with his *veree bad Inglish*;" but his gratitude will not rise to the pitch necessary for my credence in it. I try not to feel angry, but must confess it is a good opportunity for cultivating the virtue of a forgiving spirit.

'Some of the gentlemen went on shore for an hour or two, and I much wanted to go also, but no lady being inclined to make the expedition, I was compelled to abandon the idea, and rest content with such view of the settlement as I could get through the glass. They brought back lots of flowers peculiar to the place, and some native curiosities, such as arrows, wondrous head-dresses made of emu feathers, rings, &c., and some pearls. The blacks rowed the passengers to and fro. They are an exceedingly ugly race, with very dark brown skins; one man's back shone in the sunlight as if it had been polished; most of them had the edges of their ears torn almost off, and hanging down so as to form an earring.

'I have watched the Chinese portion of our crew have their mid-day meal, and have been much amused.

They squat on their heels round a piece of matting spread on the deck, on which is placed a large tin pan of rice, with, beside it, a small jar full of a nasty compound of fish and other things, cooked, I believe, in rancid butter, and which gives forth a most disagreeable odour during the process. A collection of saucers and an array of chopsticks completes the paraphernalia. Each man grasps a saucer, and, dipping it into the pan, scoops up some rice, and then, holding it close to his mouth, crams it in by the aid of the chopsticks, every now and then helping himself to some of the relish in the jar. Some others of the crew eat their food with their fingers, making it into a ball, and then thrusting it into their mouths in a most disgusting way.

'The "boys" have just come to lay the tiffin, so I am driven from my post for the present.

'Monday, 10th. Yesterday morning we had service on deck, one of our passengers kindly undertaking to act as chaplain; and as several of our number are Roman Catholics, amongst them a bishop and three priests, they held a service of their own previously in the saloon. We have no piano, which is a want much felt; but one of the officers and two or three of the other gentlemen sang some songs this evening.

'We expect to reach Singapore on Saturday or Sunday. The days pass quickly and pleasantly, but the nights are decidedly trying, on account of the great heat of the cabin, each night being worse than the last. Indeed, the day's enjoyment is partly overshadowed by

the dread of what must follow. I get up every morning feeling quite limp, and dressing becomes such a fatiguing process that until I have been in the fresh air on deck for a time I am fit for nothing.

'April 11th. We are now in the Floris Sea, with lovely islands on either side of us belonging to the Dutch and Portuguese. On some of the largest are extinct volcanoes. Last evening there was a shoal of porpoises; we have seen numbers of them during the voyage, some very close to the ship. We have had some beautiful sunsets, but before we are able to enjoy all their glory we are summoned down to dinner, to my great vexation.

'I find the doctor of the ship knows Dr. L. of Singapore; and a passenger, Mr. S., has a letter of introduction to Major M. Truly the world is a small place after all! We have a Chinese missionary in the saloon who speaks English well and dresses in European style, but who does *not* adopt our customs as far as the length of his nails is concerned, a fact which I am unfortunately well aware of, as he sits nearly opposite to me at the table.

'April 16th. In harbour safely, having dropped alongside the wharf this (Sunday) morning about nine o'clock. The last few days have been uneventful except for some tropical showers, with thunder and lightning as accompaniments. The weather is gloriously bright and fair now, and a light breeze has sprung up since twelve o'clock, which is most acceptable. On coming on deck before breakfast, I found the passengers throw-

ing money to some natives who had crowded round immediately on the arrival of the ship. They are more like fish than human beings, able to dive and to remain under the water for a long time. The successful one emerges first, bearing the money in his mouth; the rest follow, and, placing their hands on their canoes, vault into them with wonderful ease. One turned his boat over and over, laughing shrilly at our amusement. Turning towards the quay, one beheld such a variety of people and costumes, the former of all shades, the latter of all colours, style, quantity, and quality. The passengers have landed, but it being Sunday I do not mean to present myself to Mr. H. till to-morrow.

'April 17th. After all I did land yesterday, for my friend, learning of my arrival, came down directly and would not hear of my staying another hour on board; but being unable to entertain me himself, some other friends came with him to invite me to their house. Such a chattering, jabbering crowd we passed through on our way from the wharf, and the streets were swarming with people—Malays, Chinese, Arabs, and Klings. They appeared utterly unconscious that they ran the risk of being run over if they sauntered leisurely in the road, and needed to be shouted at vociferously ere they commenced to flee before us. Everything was strikingly new and picturesque, but very indescribable.

'I found to my delight that the mail had arrived that morning, therefore the latest news from you was awaiting me. The rest of the letters I am hoping to

get to-night, as they are in my friend's office, or "go-down" as it is called here. I was in an utter state of starvation for tidings from home, not having been able to hear since three weeks before my departure from Melbourne, and just eight weeks ago.

'I must now give you some little idea of my surroundings. What would you think of a house without any glass in the windows, or any fireplaces in the rooms—suggestive of a rather warm climate, is it not? Instead of glass the windows are fitted with Venetian shutters. The house is large and cool, a delightful change of residence for me, after three weeks' sojourn in such confined quarters as I had in the ladies' cabin on board the s.s. "Singapore." Most of the floors are covered with matting instead of carpets, and the rooms are innocent of curtains. The doors are folded back, and others substituted for use, made of a light framework of wood filled in with baize: they do not reach quite to the ground, nor more than half up the doorway, something like a gate, thus allowing a free passage of air. I descend from my dressing-room by means of a trap-door and staircase to my bath-room, which, being on the basement, is delightfully cool. In one corner is an immense stone tub, into which the bather is not expected to get, but just to dip in a small wooden pail and then pour the water over himself as he stands on the brick flooring. This plan has one great advantage in a hot country, that you get the water as cool as possible, before its temperature can be raised by coming

in contact with the body. Baths are patronised two or three times a day, and indeed life would be unendurable in such a climate without this means of refreshment. The first time I went into my bath-room a very moist little frog hopped out from behind the tub. I was most pleased to make his acquaintance at a moderate distance, but did not feel inclined to have him promenade across my toes. It was so deliciously cool down there one felt loth to ascend to the warmer quarters of the bedroom, especially as that caused one to be in another bath, only of a different kind. Here one's dress, habits of life, and surroundings are all made subservient to the climate, a very noticeable fact to one having just arrived from Australia, where, although they have so much more intense heat than we in England, they do not do all they might to make it bearable.

'The house servants are Chinese; the gardeners, coachmen, footman, or syce as he is called, Malay; the latter wear turbans instead of hats. Malay is spoken by all the servants, even the Chinese, and is, I am told, not difficult to acquire. It is a musical language. It seemed very strange at first to have barefooted domestics always about one, also all of the masculine gender; but they are so handy and pleasant I am quickly getting used to it. It is most amusing, though, if I want anything and my hostess is not at hand to act as interpreter for me, how the boy and I have to go through a series of pantomimic gestures, or at least it would be amusing if there were a third party as onlooker. There are

no bells, but we clap our hands if we wish to summon any of the servants.

'Need I say my bed is supplied with mosquito curtains, a most necessary arrangement, for as I sit here the wretched little creatures keep buzzing round, humming their very loudest, and sleep would be out of the question unless secure from their invasion. In the morning the curtains are looped up with hooks (those in my room are of tortoiseshell) which are suspended at equal distances round the bed, and remain so till about sunset, when the boy comes into the room, brush in hand, and after carefully skirmishing about with that weapon in every nook, drops the curtains and tucks them in securely. Woe betide him should there be a stray enemy left within the camp! The punkah, that Eastern luxury, is brought into requisition at meal-times. I have been told that I ought to make my appearance every day ready for a walk or ride at the *reasonable* hour of 5 A.M., so as to be out before the heat is great; but I fear duty will not often have a powerful influence over me in that respect.

'To-day I have been to the Botanical Gardens, which could not help being beautiful where nature is such an efficient gardener. On Thursday, at five o'clock, the military band plays there, and it becomes the fashionable resort for all Singapore. To-night, in the drawing-room, there was a magnificent specimen of a spider, and another last evening—just what I *so enjoy* seeing, as you know. I quite realise that I shall have to try

and brace up my nerves for such encounters, as the insect world is thickly populated here. I am a sort of barometer with rheumatism, which pays flying visits to my shoulders, arms, hands, &c., but otherwise I keep wonderfully well. This long epistle must now come to an end, as the mail is leaving.

'Yours, &c.'

CHAPTER V.

SINGAPORE AND HONGKONG

FROM here the remainder of my route was only sketched out in skeleton form, subject to alterations as circumstances might dictate. The plan had been that I should go from Singapore to Hongkong, and thence up to Shanghai. From there I could either go on by Nagasaki and the Inland Sea to Yokohama, and thence to America, or return to Hongkong and go by steamer to San Francisco, which would call on the way for a day or two only at Yokohama. The last was by far the easier plan, involving fewer changes of boats; but then the scenery of the other was so enticingly beautiful. Before I could decide, however, information had to be sought as to the feasibility of a lone lorn damsel visiting those parts, for I had been cautioned to shun Japan unless I had friends there to whom I could go. I had none; and if the reports that had been given me of the country were true, it would not do for me to trust to the steamers fitting in *for once* so conveniently as not to leave me stranded there for any length of time.

In the end, all things considered, I was advised not to go to Shanghai, but to choose the route from Hong-

kong to America, the lady with whom I was staying very kindly giving me a letter to some friends of hers in Japan, who she knew would show me every kindness in their power; and I should thus be able to land and see a little of the lovely island of Niphon on my way. Subsequent experience proved how truly her confidence was not misplaced, for more abundant kindness they could not possibly have shown me; and here I would like to add my grateful testimony to the universal and unbounded hospitality shown me everywhere I went, and by everyone. I lived to regret that I had decided not to go by way of Shanghai and Nagasaki when I found how easy the journey would have been, and how willing people are to render help to solitary female travellers; but at the time it looked a somewhat formidable undertaking.

My money matters now became rather more intricate. Hitherto I had had only English money to deal with, but now had to get accustomed to dollar coinage and rates of exchange. When I left England I bore with me a letter of credit, which on reaching Adelaide I had exchanged into circular notes, a letter of advice being also given me, which I was warned to keep in a safe place, but quite separate from the notes, as in the event of losing them it would be available, and in any case would be a guarantee. To keep the money and letter safely had hitherto been my only trouble; but even that was no small charge, with other things to take care of whilst travelling about from place to place alone, and

where frequently I had no privacy. Now, added to that, I needed to be *au courant* with the rate of exchange, and to learn to estimate the relative prices of things, which is by no means easy at first. Being asked $15 for an article conveys no idea of whether it is much or little to one who has been only used to £ *s. d.* Time and experience helped me most in that respect.

I found the life I was leading bordered decidedly upon the lazy, but for that the climate must take the blame, and I must confess I abandoned myself gladly and entirely to it, being somewhat in need of rest after the continual run of travelling I had had for the past nine months. Our day's programme was something of this kind. At 7 A.M. a cup of tea, with toast and fruit, was brought to my bedside, after partaking of which I generally delivered myself over to a final snooze till eight, when I leisurely rose and dressed, and made my appearance at nine o'clock for breakfast. Then my host drove off to the 'go-down,' being so gracious as to take us ladies if we required to shop in town; otherwise he departed in solitary grandeur, and we sat down to work and chat, after adopting a more *negligé* style of dress than that in which we had at first emerged from our rooms. But as relentless time brought us near the hour of noon, we were compelled to don again our cast-off garments, and be ready to receive callers, or, worse still, put ourselves to the purgatory of 'best bib and tucker,' and sally forth to do our duty like Britons in

that same business of life. The martyrdom of this proceeding consisted in etiquette requiring that we should go just at the *very hottest* part of the day; and truly it does seem a barbarous custom in such a climate. Unless you say that you will receive callers, no one comes after two o'clock.

After tiffin, which with us was a movable feast, we were at liberty to retire into the privacy of our own rooms, no inconvenient questions being asked as to how the next two or three hours were spent, though if one may speculate on such a matter, I should be inclined to think some people took siestas. Most inviting-looking lounging chairs were freely placed about the house, each room having at least one, some more, and with a good stock of literature near at hand, how was it possible to withstand such great temptations to laziness!

At five o'clock we again united at the social cup of tea, and afterwards went for a drive in the cool of the day, returning in time to dress for dinner. At that meal and at breakfast, different varieties of curries were served up, such as one can only taste out here. If we were thirsty between the hours for meals, we used to tell the boys to cut down a cocoa-nut from one of the trees growing in the garden, or compound as it is called. The water taken from the fruit before it is ripe enough to have turned into milk, with a lump of ice in the glass, makes a most delicious drink.

Every day Singapore is refreshed by a shower of rain,

after which the sun shines out, and each tree and creeper becomes radiant with sparkling dewdrops which glisten like beautiful gems. A distant rumble of thunder is also constantly heard, and nearly every evening the sky is brilliant with summer lightning. I was much enchanted with the tropical verdure, the many different kinds of palms, each so beautiful; the bamboo which thrusts up its stem tall and straight, covered with its endogenous leaves, and many other trees and shrubs with lovely parasites attached, making up a picture of mingled beauty.

On the Wednesday after my arrival I went to see a rich Chinaman's garden, which, containing many curiosities, was very interesting to visit. As the owner was personally known to my friend, he obtained an invitation for me. The shrubs, many of them, were trimmed into different shapes, resembling ships, birds, beasts, and fishes; and some, with the addition of doll's heads and hands of wood, looked like miniature men and women. Most grotesque they were, but ingenious. Amongst the flowers he has many fine specimens; some rare and beautiful orchids, and one green rose. The way in which the garden is laid out is pretty, but very fanciful, and in portions of it habitations are built for creatures of all sorts—such as deer, kangaroos, wallabys, peacock-pheasants, peculiar kinds of fowl, turtles, and rabbits.

Mr. W., the proprietor, came out himself and showed us round the ground with great courtesy. He speaks English well, and has lately become famous as the first

man of his nation who has had the honour conferred upon him by her Majesty of the order of St. Michael and St. George. He was so pleased to find that I knew friends of his in London, and begged to be very kindly remembered to them when I saw them again. He is now an old man, and stoops considerably. He afterwards invited us into his house and showed us the many curiosities contained therein. Magnificent Chinese and Japanese bowls and vases, that would have ravished the eyes of anyone touched with Chinamania; chairs the framework of which was just a network of carving; pearl shells, exquisitely carved and mounted on ebony stands; and one little silver vase in particular, about eight inches in height, of which the workmanship was so wonderful that the earrings even in the ears of the female figures shook perceptibly at the touch. The drawing-room, which was upstairs, and a very fine room, contained other curiosities. There was King Coffee's shoe of state; it is really only a sole which is placed between the soles of his feet, fastening them together by means of a strap round each in what must be a very uncomfortable position. To walk is evidently an impossibility. There was also a glass bottle, in shape like those to be seen in chemists' shop windows, and in this was a toy temple of beads and shells, which occupied the whole of the lower and larger part of it, and yet had all been worked into it through the narrow neck, and not the bottle blown round the temple as we suggested. Our host saw it done with his own eyes!

There was a peculiarity about the room itself also, which I must just mention, though I fear if I can describe it sufficiently well to be understood. On either side were large circles cut in the walls, reaching to the ceiling and almost to the ground, through which one passed into two smaller rooms, furnished in somewhat the same style as the central and larger one. It had, to my mind, a far prettier effect than the folding-doors to be seen in houses in England. Orders being given to his servants by Mr. W., he showed us how, if he chose, he could shut the rooms up immediately, and, as if by magic, ebony doors filled in with panels of glass, slid out from either side and joined together; and one more transformation was effected by shutters being speedily affixed to the glass doors, so that if needed the rooms could be made to answer as bedrooms. Wine was then offered us, and we afterwards bade adieu to our kind and hospitable friend, and departed. During the whole of the visit, we, of course, saw nothing of his wife, nor any sign that she was in the house, though doubtless she was there, kept carefully out of sight.

The Malay women dress very picturesquely, with one exception—the nose ornament. Pieces of bright coloured stuff are thrown round their shoulders and fall in graceful folds to their ankles, round which are fastened anklets. On their arms they wear bracelets. Neither the men nor the women are tall, and I do not think I was particularly struck with their beauty! They chew the betel-nut, which stains their teeth and lips a

bright red, and is a great disfigurement. Their huts are most uninhabitable-looking hovels. The Malays are cowardly and superstitious, and a lazy people, especially the men, from two causes—one being the climate, the other that they are able to live on so little they need not greatly exert themselves to earn sufficient for the necessaries of life: five cents a day, about twopence farthing, being enough to supply them with food. They delight to loll and squat about on the ground just outside their dwellings or by the wayside, smoking and chattering, in what would be to us a most fatiguing position. To sit down seems almost, if not entirely, an unknown posture to them, as even at meals they often range themselves like so many monkeys on a bench, their feet on the top, and their bodies resting on their heels. The Chinese adopt the same fashion, and all are innocent of a superabundance of clothing.

The better class of Chinese live in one or two-storied houses with the fronts gaily decorated, which gives them a very gaudy and pasteboard appearance, reminding one forcibly of such as are seen on the stage, and through the doorways one can catch glimpses of carved furniture. The hire of a coolie per diem is only 30 cents, and for that they do the roughest and heaviest work. They are very strong, and can carry weights for long distances. They are, in fact, the hewers of wood and drawers of water, for work that is considered beneath the dignity of a Malay is shunted off to an unfortunate coolie. For example, our washerman, or 'dobie,' as he

is called, is a Malay, and when he comes for the linen he brings a coolie with him to carry it. They attach their burdens to each end of a bamboo stick, which they put across their shoulders, and then move along at a kind of ambling pace or trot, indeed it is called 'the coolie trot.' The Chinese are plodding and industrious, and make wonderfully good gardeners. As a rule, truthfulness is not their greatest virtue, and with an immovable countenance they will tell a lie if that be most convenient. One must therefore learn to possess one's soul in patience; and should you in righteous indignation reprove any of them for lying, they will probably preserve a stolid indifference, and even consider you pay them a compliment in telling them that they are not speaking the truth. They have a strong prejudice against being buried in any other than their own land, and all those who can afford it will, if possible, have the bones of their relatives conveyed thither if they have died in a foreign country. Their cemeteries are always on the side of a hill. The native horses are very small, about the size of ponies, but strong and active. The vehicles for hire are called gharries. I had not the opportunity of tasting many of the native fruits, such as the durian and rambuttans. Mangoes I very much liked, also bananas; and the pine-apple seemed to have an especially fine flavour. Later on, I tasted mangosteens, lychees, and loquots, and liked each and all.

The Chinese make capital servants, a well-trained house-boy being really a treasure. Perhaps I ought to

mention that the term 'boy' is the universal name given to the native servants and is not indicative of age. The house-boy is considered the head of the servants, and he is expected to see that each does his duty, and that the wheels of the domestic machinery run smoothly. They are clever with their fingers and seldom come to you with the complaint that they cannot do this or that for want of tools and cooking utensils, but ingeniously contrive something else which will answer the purpose. They can sew on buttons too, a most useful accomplishment in the many bachelor establishments to be found in the East, where very often three or four gentlemen in that condition of single blessedness agree to dwell together in unity, one of the number being voted to 'mess' for the whole party. The Chinese make excellent cooks, and will send up a dinner on a very short notice for a number of unexpected guests in a way that would astonish our heads of the cuisine; and a dinner kept waiting for even a considerable length of time will not get spoiled under the clever management of these Celestials. They command good wages, but out of these they have to find their own 'chow-chow' or food.

In the way of sleeping accommodation their requirements are not great, rooms being all that it is necessary to provide for them, while they bring their simple furniture. The cook does the marketing, each master or mistress giving him weekly what is considered sufficient money for table expenditure. This he must not exceed, and should any of the provisions be not quite

fresh, he is well scolded, and sometimes the price of the things deducted from his wages. He rises early in the morning and goes to town to make his purchases, coming back in time to prepare breakfast. He only asks for occasional holidays to go joss-chin-chinning, visit a sick relative, attend a funeral, or pay a visit to the tombs of his ancestors, but then he is obliged to find another servant to fulfil his duties, whose wages he has to pay, and should the substitute not be up to his work, is severely reprimanded on his return. When you go out to dine, your boy goes also to wait upon you. It is a very convenient plan, as the hostess need give no thought to the hiring of extra servants to attend upon her guests. Should the family be leaving home for a trip up country, or for a fishing or shooting excursion, the house-boy and cook are simply informed a few days before, and told to get everything necessary prepared and packed. It is easy to see, therefore, how much less trouble housekeeping is in the East, and how difficult and perplexing a thing it is here to ladies returning from a life out there.

The Chinese men go out tailoring and dressmaking, and very dexterous they are with their needles. A dress being given them for a pattern, they will copy the make and style faithfully. They work by the day, and are content with what we should call very small pay, about three dollars a week without food. They are also capital washermen, and get up linen equal to a Parisian blan-

chisseuse, the charge being very little, from two to three dollars per hundred pieces, large and small.

It was not positively decided when I left home that I should be able to do the route I had planned in its entirety, as my friends could not be sure that I should like travelling sufficiently well, or that my heart would not fail me at the lonely prospect before me. They had arranged, therefore, that I should telegraph by a cipher word from Sydney whether I felt equal to the undertaking or intended to return home. In the event of going on, I was to send another word when I reached Singapore, to signify when I should be leaving that place for Hongkong, so that they might be able to gain some idea when I should be likely to arrive at the different points along the route. This I did, and it proved a good arrangement. I will again insert one of my letters.

'Singapore, April 20th.

'This morning we were up and off by 5.30 to go and see Dr. L.'s cocoa-nut plantation, he having very kindly invited us, and arranged a day when he would be down there himself and could show us over it. We had a drive of five or six miles, which was delightful at that early hour, the air so soft and mild, and the sun not yet up to pour down upon us his scorching rays.

'The groves of cocoa-nut trees look very beautiful, planted in even rows about thirty-three feet apart, up which one looks as along the aisles of a cathedral. The tree is very elegant, running up to a great height, with a

tall slight stem, and then bursting forth into a splendid bunch of feathery foliage, with the clusters of fruit growing underneath the leaves.

'After having breakfast at his bungalow, Dr. L. took us to see the Chinese getting the oil from the nut. On approaching the few wooden sheds where the process is carried on, and where the men employed live, a pack of dogs flew out at us, barking vociferously. It was anything but an agreeable salute, but I am told that "John Chinaman" always likes to keep dogs about his home.

'The nut was first separated from the hard outer shell by means of a peculiarly-shaped knife, and then two or three pieces held together in the hand and worked backwards and forwards on a wooden board covered with sharp steel spikes until they were well grated. The pulp was then put into a large cauldron and boiled, afterwards being transferred to a tub with another underneath. A man got into the upper one and trod out the oil, which passed through a hole in the bottom into the one below, in what looked like a thick scum. This was again subjected to heat, when the pure oil alone was left.

'A machine had been imported for pressing out the oil instead of treading it, but was lying idle in the corner of the shed, the men preferring not to use it, their excuse being that it was more tiring. That was simply because it used different muscles from those they were accustomed to employ, and was a good example of the conservative spirit to be found in a Chinese

The trees grow quickly, sprouting from the seed which is laid out on a sort of framework of sticks some feet from the ground; as soon as they have well started they are planted out. If in a very favourable position they will bear in five or six years, but ordinarily, I believe, take much longer, even from ten to fifteen.

'Last night we came home from Mr. H.'s, where we had been dining, at eleven o'clock, in an open carriage with only shawls over our thin dresses and no covering on our heads, the summer lightning illuminating every thing around us continually; and each tree and bush by the roadside aglow with fireflies, as if the fairies had come out to have a dance, and had hung out their tiny lamps to light them on their way. The stars, too, were shining overhead as they only can in tropical climes. Have I not made you envious?

'The churches are supplied with punkahs which are worked by natives from the outside; without them the congregation would, I am afraid, be subject to fits of drowsiness. Down each side of the Presbyterian church which we attend, instead of doors there are only arched doorways, so that what air there may be stirring can find its way right through the place. I could not help remarking that if it were in London we should have dogs straying in, but here the canine species does not seem to flourish to the same extent.

'It is wonderful how quickly the mosquitos are aware of the arrival of a new-comer, and commence paying their assiduous attentions to the poor unfortunate. They found

me out directly, and with untiring energy have continued their attacks. One kind especially has most venomous stings, and can be known by their striped bodies and great size. They are the giants of the tribe. As for this place I am much in love with it, being so pretty, and it is so delightful never to feel cold from "early morn till dewy eve," though, I must say, we often experience "melting moments" not altogether conducive to comfort.

'On Monday morning I was up again at five o'clock, when Mr. H. called in his buggy to drive me to Mount Favour. We walked to the top, whence a good view can be obtained. As it is only a low hill, to use the word summit would be too absurd. The sun was up before we were, but the clouds had not all disappeared, and the effects of light and shade were very beautiful. We stayed some time hoping to see the mail steamer come in, but it arrived later that day. A man, stationed up there to attend to the signals, cut up a most delicious pine-apple for our benefit, which we sat on a bench to eat, and enjoyed exceedingly. It seemed to me to have a better flavour than any I had before tasted, but, as I had not had anything to eat that morning and had been swallowing mouthfuls of fresh air and walking, perhaps the fruit did not deserve all the credit I gave it. Pines were flourishing all round us, the soil being well suited to their growth.

'Mr. H. happening to remark to me that it was the first time he had felt at all cold for a long time, I, who always revel in warmth, said directly, "Let us go down

if you feel cold," thereby provoking a hearty laugh from him, as that sensation is counted a luxury.

'We got back at 7.30 A.M. The next day (Thursday) we packed up our goods and chattels and removed to a bungalow about four miles away by the seaside. It is most charmingly situated on high ground overlooking the sea, with a most exquisite view beyond of islands and hills. We drove down in the morning, taking the dog and our tiffin, leaving the rest of our necessaries to come after us in carts drawn by bullocks at the rate of two miles an hour.

'They started before us, but as they were coming at such *great* speed it behoved us to remember that when we got there the cupboard would be bare, and we must therefore take the bone with us or make up our minds to have none. The strange position in which "Snip" found himself seemed to inspire him with the desire to commit suicide, or at least do himself great bodily injury by jumping out. Such a catastrophe, however, we prevented by due vigilance. Very foolishly we placed the precious basket of provisions up on the box, where the sun soon found it out. The result was that I drank some warm ale *not spiced* for the first time in my life!

'We indulged in many speculations on the way down as to what our new quarters would be like, for usually these seaside bungalows are not remarkable for an over-abundance of furniture or comfort, and I had been warned not to have "great expectations." Picture our

delight then to find it sumptuously supplied; sofas, easy-chairs, tea-tables, a rather primitive bookcase filled with some well-worn novels, ornamental vases, &c., &c. All the rooms too were large, and the place soon began to wear a comfortable, habitable look when we had busied ourselves in unpacking and arranging the things we had brought. To our surprise, when we were struggling frantically with the cork in a bottle of ale which was refractory, in came, grinning from ear to ear, the small house-boy, who, faithful fellow, had walked on quickly in the heat, leaving the drays to follow, so that we might not be left without a domestic. There was triumph in his eye as, taking the bottle from my hands he whisked out the cork with which we had been labouring so desperately.

'We have a private bathing-place belonging to the house, with a pathway through the compound down to it. It is enclosed by means of stakes on account of the sharks, and there is also a roof or ceiling of the same to keep off the sun. It is considerably patronised by all the party.

'We are delightfully removed from all the world, so to speak, and safe from intrusion in the way of callers, consequently can roam about in *déshabille* until late in the afternoon; and it is only when you have been in a tropical climate for a while that you can understand what a luxury a *negligé* style of costume can be. We have plenty of books and work, and my friend's sister having come with us, we make a most sociable trio. We lounge about in the reclining bamboo chairs and

bestow our profound pity on all those other portions of humanity who are not revelling in a similar Utopian existence. Just in front of my window is a banyan tree, and amongst the many varieties of the palm to be found here is one called the traveller's palm, which is thus named because, if a hole is made at the bottom of the stem of each leaf, about a cupful of water flows out. This would prove most refreshing to the weary traveller if only he knew of its existence; but I think that is rather a doubtful matter. It is such a graceful tree, the leaves fan-shaped and growing on the side of the stem, and overlapping one another; but to describe them is impossible. I must close this letter now, as the mail is leaving. Mr. C. is going to draw to-day the money I think I shall want for the rest of my journey. It will be in the form of circular notes, with the usual appendage, a letter of advice. My telegram went yesterday.'

'Singapore, May 4th.

'You will be extremely surprised to find that I am still writing from Singapore after having despatched the telegram to say I should be leaving for Hongkong this month; but my friends so pressed me to extend my visit for another fortnight and catch the June steamer for 'Frisco, and I am enjoying myself so much, that the invitation proved too tempting to be resisted. It is so pleasant to rest on one's oars for a time. My host and hostess are kindness personified, and after having been cherished by them as I have

been I shall not like to say "good bye" and sally forth on my pilgrimage. The delay will make no difference except that my letters will be awaiting my arrival a little longer at various places, and I hope will not cause you any trouble or anxiety. I shall now be here for a month instead of a week, as I at first intended, and this has been the case throughout my journey, and I rather think will be to the end of the chapter.

'In consequence of this protracted stay I was here to receive the letter which you wrote on the chance of my getting it. It was such a surprise, but all the more welcome because unexpected. I find it almost impossible to give you very much idea as to when and where you should write to me in America, for I shall not be able to decide by which route to go across the Continent, nor what time the journey will occupy, till I reach those shores. I must therefore rest content with having letters at 'Frisco, Philadelphia, and New York, and trust that my route will become clear as I proceed, and that I may be able to get more detailed information concerning it. A lady here has kindly given me a letter of introduction to a friend of hers in Napa City, California. I have also two to some gentlemen in Hong-kong, one to a lady in Japan, another to a gentleman in San Francisco, and another to the Swedish Commissioner at Philadelphia, besides being personally acquainted with the South Australian Commissioner.

'It is just splendid sitting out on the verandah in the most delightfully easy chairs ever made, with one of

the most lovely views before our eyes, and which never looks the same from one hour to another, two of us working, the other one reading aloud, changing about when we are tired, having tiffin just when hunger prompts, resting after in any way that suits our fancy, then dressing and going out for a walk in the dying daylight before dinner. There is also plenty to interest us in the frequent passing to and fro of ships, mail steamers, &c. They come and go quite close to us. Still, amidst all this enjoyment, at times unconquerable, overwhelming fits of home sickness seize me, when I would give something to be able to get a glimpse of you all.

'For three days we have been by mistake minus a clock or watch of any description, and have therefore been compelled to get the sun and our appetites to help us to determine about the hour for our mid-day meal. It was quite fun! On Tuesday night we had a terrific storm. I was suddenly awakened by a flash of lightning coming in upon my face through the open window, which lit up each corner of the room, and at the same minute every shutter and door flew open with the fury of the wind which had sprung up as if by magic, and it was almost impossible to hear oneself speak. We were all astir, struggling to keep the shutters from being wrenched from their hinges, and in continual fear of being left roofless. The tall slight palms swayed to and fro beneath the blast and bent even to the ground, while the wind tore wildly about amidst the leaves and branches of the other trees, making a fearful

sound. The scene from one side of the house especially was awfully grand, where every two or three seconds the sea and islands and hills beyond stood out as in the daylight, while the sky was turned into a huge rainbow of light amid which the forked lightning played in zig-zag forms. Before one peal of thunder was ended it was followed by another, and the rushing sound of the wind was so peculiar and awful, entirely different from anything I had heard before. There had been no rain all this time, but the wind, after raging for half an hour, fell as suddenly as it had risen, and then the rain came down most refreshingly.

'My thoughts are constantly with the home circle from which I am separated by so many miles. My ever-increasing wish is that you were with me to enjoy all the sights and scenes through which I am passing. I am glad you have received the telegraph code Uncle so kindly drew up for me to be used in any case of emergency; but no doubt you had mingled feelings of horror and amusement, as I had, when you found that not only sickness, but even death and burial had not been left out from what we may safely call his complete list of casualties. My adieux must now be said; I have been scribbling a long while, so my poor hand is crying out for mercy.'

'Singapore, May 14th.

'After all I am to send another letter to you from this place, as I am detained here by the non-arrival of

the P. and O. steamer, which has broken down somewhere. It is rather provoking, as it will lessen my time in China, but it is of course an entirely unforeseen catastrophe, and beyond my control, and must therefore be borne with patience. If the worst comes to the worst I shall have to get my passage in her cancelled, and proceed by the French mail. It is most unsettling waiting on day by day, not knowing when I shall have to start away, but having to hold myself in readiness to do so at short notice. I am getting accustomed, though, to a hitch of some kind or other in connection with the steamers in which I take passage. My boxes are all packed except the small portmanteau I take into my cabin, well labelled on the top *and all sides*, and safely stowed away in the P. and O. wharf. This we accomplished last Tuesday when we left B. and came back to town, for the wharf being close to the former place it did not seem worth while to transport them all the way here in a bullock dray, only to be dragged back again. We felt very loth to leave our seaside home after the happy three weeks we had spent there, and, as if to make our regrets the more keen, nature had put on her most winning smile.

'My eyes take turns in getting closed up with mosquito bites; those wretched little insects have certainly succeeded in making an impression on me. They are so cunning as even to discover when you intend to retire within the curtains, and follow you. The only way to elude them is to flap about vigorously with a handker-

chief and then dash in and carefully cut off all their chances of ingress. The races have been on this week, but we have not attended them. The days slip by so fast, and I do my best to enjoy each to the full, not knowing how many more may be vouchsafed me.'

'I very much wished to have taken a trip to Java, for the accounts of the island are so tempting; but it seems that, being a Dutch settlement, a lady travelling alone would be looked upon as a queer phenomenon, so I have abandoned the idea. There is not much news with which to fill my letters, as my time is chiefly taken up with social enjoyments, and a description of these would not be very interesting to you, as you do not know the many kind friends I have made here. Once more farewell.'

'Messageries Maritimes, May 23rd.

'Actually *en route* for Hongkong at last. The P. and O. still not having turned up it became a case of desperation, so Mr. C. succeeded in transferring my passage to the French mail, and I found myself last night (Sunday) at 10.30 once more alone, standing in the battery of this immense steamer, looking out into the darkness at the retreating figures of the five friends who had come to see me off. I felt exceedingly disconsolate, so retired to my cabin directly; but ere I could succeed in scampering through the process of undressing, the rigorous rules of shipboard overtook me, and a relentless man came and blew out the lamp. It is fixed to the

outer wall, so that the steward, passing along outside the cabin, just opens a little door at the back of the lamp and extinguishes the light. It was stiflingly close, for we were still in port, the time for starting being seven o'clock this morning; but as the number of passengers is small I had the good fortune to be minus a companion, and I did not see even the ghost of a cockroach, so awoke in a very thankful frame of mind. I feel very forlorn, not knowing a person to speak to. The only English lady on board is a great invalid, and from what I can judge, of a most melancholy disposition, which will not allow me to indulge in the hope of lively intercourse with her during the voyage. There is one other lady, French, but she is such a martyr to *mal de mer* as to be quite too ill for talking.

'We breakfast at 9.30, and the solemn exercise occupies just one hour, and consists of about twelve courses, the cooking of which to-day was anything but nice; but as I have been told that on these boats the table kept is very good, perhaps this was not a fair specimen. Tiffin is at 12.30, and a very informal affair, only patronised by a few, a fact which causes me no astonishment considering what very good justice was done by most to the other meal only finished two hours ago. Then dinner at five and tea at eight.

'I wonder whether it is an absolute necessity for Frenchmen and Germans to have nails like claws, which also are in deep mourning; and whether dinner napkins are given us to serve as handkerchiefs in the sudden

emergency of a sneeze! These reflections are forced on me by surrounding circumstances, for certainly the manners of those of my nearest neighbours at table are not the nicest of the nice. I must leave off writing now and go up on deck, for it is so hot.

'Wednesday, 24th. The days drag their weary length along; I sleep away as much of the time as I can. Fortunately I am so overcome with sleep just now that the longer I am in my berth the better I like it, though ordinarily, as you know, it would be a penance to me. We expect to get into Saigon, the French settlement in Cochin China, to-day about one o'clock, and shall probably stay till to-morrow. To be in port is somewhat to be dreaded when the thermometer stands at 86° even when the ship is in motion, and to-night cannot be looked forward to with pleasure. The reports of the place also are not encouraging.

'Thursday, 25th. We touched at Saigon about four o'clock yesterday. The approach to it is by the river Saigon, which keeps you provokingly meandering on for four hours before it lands you at the harbour, and gives you all the while about as dull and uninteresting a country to look at as it is possible to imagine. It reminded me a good deal of the flattest part of Holland, being low and marshy, but with one redeeming quality, that it grows rice to perfection. It appears to be a second kind of Eden, such as Dickens portrayed in "Martin Chuzzlewit." Fevers, dysentery, ague, and many other complaints flourish to an alarming extent, making the

lives of the inhabitants not worth anything to insurance offices. The drainage is very bad, and the water of the river so brackish that good drinking water is almost unattainable. The French have made it a military station, but every year a great many of the soldiers have to be drafted home invalided, and the other residents are unable to remain more than three or four years without a change. It is thronged with Chinese engaged in the rice trade. The natives somewhat resemble Malays, but are shorter, and I think uglier.

'The weather has baffled all my attempts to go on shore, for directly we arrived yesterday afternoon it began to rain, accompanied by a storm of thunder and lightning which continued more or less the whole evening. This morning it was so intensely hot I was advised to wait until the afternoon, and then we had a repetition of yesterday's weather as far as the rain was concerned, the result being that I have not put foot on shore. I am told that I have not missed anything, but it must be a charming climate if this is a specimen. I hear that in the daytime it is so excessively hot that people do not like to go out for fear of sunstroke, and that business is usually suspended from eleven till four for the same reason. The storm last evening was a severe one, the forked lightning so very vivid, and remaining long enough to be reflected most brilliantly in the placid sea. We hoped we should be away before night, but shall not leave till to-morrow morning, as we had so much cargo to be discharged here. It is stiflingly hot in the cabins,

and the wretched little mosquitos give us no rest. They found out our arrival directly, and came crowding in uninvited and unwished.

'The noise the coolies make at their work amidst the cargo is terribly distracting, two of them making more commotion than eight Britishers. When first I heard them I thought that at least a dozen must have risen in rebellion about something, but on going out to see what was the matter found simply two men who were trying to lift a heavy crate. When we were at B. a piano had to be brought to the house and up into the drawing-room. For this *only* eleven coolies were employed, with one to look on as director-general; and I am sure that unless you heard them you could not realise what hideous noises they made during their work.

'I actually exchanged a few words with the captain to-day; bearded the lion in his den, so to speak. He is such a small man, but fully makes up for his want of stature by his unapproachableness. There is an English gentleman on board who is very kind to me indeed. He is just returning to China, having taken his wife and children home to England. We have also a Spaniard among our passengers who is engaged in diplomatic service. He can speak seven languages, and has been employed twenty-three years in government affairs. During that time he has visited nearly every country in the world. His experience, if published, would be full of interest. He has a wonderful way of telling any-

thing, that keeps you listening with open eyes and ears, and sometimes leaves off in the middle of a sentence, giving the rest by an action that speaks far louder than words. He is already longing to be at home again, although only on his way out. I smile at the feeling, and suggest one or two pleasant but long tours for him to take on his way back.

'The English lady before referred to, I have discovered is such a very great invalid as to be unable, as she assures me, to keep up without the continual support of some weak potions of brandy and water, alternately with a glass of port wine, or beaten up egg with sherry. Her appetite is so very bad that without a little stimulant she feels so sinking. I could not help thinking that her appetite was not likely to improve under such a course of treatment. We have also two doctors on board beside the ship's doctor, so that should any of us fall ill we shall be able to have plenty of medical advice.

'Friday, 26th. We are once more under way, and shall not stop now till we reach Hongkong. I slept badly last night, as they began getting up steam about 2 A.M. and started at about three, and then at six o'clock I awoke again to find the rain beating in upon me through the port, my berth being just beneath it.

'Monday, 29th. The last two days we have been steaming head to wind, consequently the runs have been but small, and Hongkong unattainable till to-morrow. This steamboat is the largest and swiftest I have ever travelled in, and is really like a large floating hotel.

She is long and narrow, and her size being so great one is much less conscious of the screw, and she is very steady. The fittings are very nice, and the punkahs look quite smart in their frilled white covers. The cabins are all supplied with curtains, so that if the weather is very hot they only need be drawn across. As usual there is a double awning over the deck. I slept very badly again last night, and a splitting headache this morning is the result. I shall not be sorry to be at the end of this part of my voyage.

'Wednesday Evening, ten o'clock. I sit down thus late to finish off my letter to you, as to-morrow I start for Canton at 7.30 A.M., and up to the present have not had any opportunity for writing, but I must go back a little in my account. I awoke yesterday morning to find that we were just entering Hongkong harbour, while a fine rain which was falling made all things look as cheerless as possible; but by nine o'clock the sun had coaxed the weather into a better humour, and his warm beams chasing away the damp mists that had settled down around, disclosed an amphitheatre of hills with the city climbing up them from the water's edge. Around us were vessels of all kinds and nationalities, from the clumsy-looking Chinese junk to our own well-modelled steamer. The harbour is a splendid one, and I should think the "Times" correspondent cannot have been guilty of much exaggeration when he said that all the fleets of the world could ride at anchor there.

'Directly after breakfast I gathered all my posses-

sions together, but before leaving, went to say farewell to the captain, hoping that he would offer me one of the ship's boats in which to go ashore. He did not do so, and there being no one with whom I could go, I asked a steward to hail one of the many sampans or native boats that were hovering round the ship, had my effects lowered into it, and then deposited myself therein. There was not room for me to put my feet down, but only to rest them on one of my trunks, and as we were tossing about on rough waters I was compelled to cling on to the side of the boat. I was bound for Peddah's Wharf, if only the five Chinese would be good enough to take me there; but of that I was forced to have grave doubts when we were about half way towards land. They were the dirtiest-looking creatures imaginable, and had a very wild and unkempt appearance. One was a horrible old hag whose hideous countenance and harsh voice haunted me long afterwards, and the boat was fully as dirty as the owners thereof. When we had gone some distance one of the men relinquished his oar and stepped forward as spokesman. He first asked in Pidgin-English where I wished to go, and upon my replying, grunted out with an imperative nod of his head, "My wantchee dollar and a half;" thirty cents I knew was the fare, as I had fortunately asked what I had to pay before leaving the ship—so I shook my head. This had no effect, however, for he only reiterated his extravagant demand. I again said "no"—emphasising it with a *decided* shake of the head; whereupon he became very angry and

jabbered away fast and fervently at me in Pidgin-English, waxing warmer and warmer as he proceeded, finally giving me the pleasant assurance that if I did not pay him what he wished, he would not take me, but throw me into the water. My heart went down into my shoes, and for a minute I did not know what to do or say, I was so terribly at their mercy. I knew that it was not an entirely idle threat, and that I also ran the risk of a sudden determination on their part to take me to the native town, to which they might have been the more inclined had they been aware how considerable a sum of money I had about my person; but I felt sure that if I showed any signs of fear, advantage would be taken of it, so I smiled as sweetly as I could upon them, and said I wished to be taken to Peddah's Wharf, and that *chop-chop* (quickly), and I would pay them what was fair when I got there and not before. Finding me firm in the matter, the man, though still growling, took up his oar, and eventually I reached my destination. My causes for fear and dismay were not yet over, for when we reached the landing-steps, the boat was mobbed by coolies, who sprang into it, well nigh capsizing us all—jumping, shouting, scrambling, and struggling to secure the porterage of my luggage. They took no notice of my feet being on one of the boxes, and would have given me an ignominious ducking if I had not clung in desperation to the boat, which was tipping about in an alarming fashion. Just at this moment, the captain of a steamer who was on the quay

espied my dilemma, and came forward to the rescue. By means of forcible bullying he ejected a great many of the men, so that I could extricate myself from my somewhat perilous, and certainly ludicrous position. I thanked him heartily, and asked him if he would still further extend his kindness by telling off sufficient coolies to take my luggage to the hotel. He did so, and I meanwhile stepped into a sedan-chair which was borne by two coolies, and, once more thanking my deliverer, went on my way. The boatman walked by my side, urging me to pay him, but as it was but a very short distance to the hotel, I made him come with me so that the proprietor might pay him, telling him that he should not have tried to extort more than his proper fare.

'The first time you find yourself in a sedan-chair your feelings are more easily imagined than described, but I think the two uppermost are helplessness and absurdity. When I was fairly on my way the men made another raid upon me, demanding a dollar each, but as that was really too absurd, I vouchsafed them no reply. When my packages were safely deposited in my room, I asked the Chinese servant to tell them to go down stairs and the proprietor would pay them. They were dreadfully mortified at thus not being able to squeeze the "almighty dollar" out of a "foreign devil," as they call Europeans, and would not leave the room until I sternly ordered them to go. The last man who went out almost had his nose pinched off in the door, for he.

would thrust in his head to ask "How muchee, missee?" at the last moment. I was not sorry to be quit of these troublesome customers.

'I then went down to the office and asked to have my two letters of introduction forwarded directly. About an hour afterwards the "boy" delivered me a card, saying that a gentleman was waiting below. I went down, and found Mr. C. had come round immediately to ask me to go home with him to tiffin. He arranged to call for me at one o'clock, and said he much regretted he could not offer me a room at his house, but he hoped I would spend as much time there as I could, and that if he could render me any assistance, I was not to scruple to ask him. He was exceedingly kind. At the appointed hour we started in a couple of chairs, our bearers carrying us side by side, so that my friend and I could chat sociably together. The servants wore long loose white garments with blue borders, and their master's crest or monogram on the sleeves. His wife received me most cordially, and I soon made friends with their dear little children. While we were at lunch, a letter came for me from the other gentleman to whom I had sent a letter of introduction. He wrote asking me to go to his house to dinner, saying that he would call for me at five o'clock.

'After tiffin, Mrs. C. took me to the Botanical Gardens, which are laid out with great taste. They have been made under considerable difficulty, for the soil is so unproductive that earth had to be brought from a

distance. Still Nature has rendered help in one way, for the sloping hill-sides make pretty terraces and hollows ready for the planter's hands. We returned just before my other friend, Mr. S., arrived, and he drove me to his house, which is on one of the breezy heights overlooking the harbour.

'Hongkong being so hilly, driving is not a very general mode of travelling, sedan-chairs being chiefly used. We had a lovely view at each turn of the road, and I, who had been given but a disagreeable description of the island before I arrived, was most agreeably disappointed, and quite fell in love with it. The city lay at our feet, while beyond was the harbour, in which the many varieties of ships added greatly to the picture; and further still in the distance the hills looked beautiful in the sunset glow. They are bare of trees but covered with grass, which clothes them as in a mantle of velvet.

'Mrs. S. received me so kindly, and gave me a pressing invitation to come and stay at their house instead of remaining at the hotel. A relation of hers to whom she introduced me, also said how glad he and his wife would be to see me at their home. I felt overwhelmed with the great kindness I had met with that day from all my newly-found friends; the more so as a globe-trotter is by no means a *rara avis* in those parts, and residents are constantly being called upon to exercise their hospitality.

'Having already arranged to start the next morning

for Canton, I thanked Mr. and Mrs. S., and said that I should be compelled to return to my quarters at the hotel for that night, but that on my return, if still convenient to them, I would gratefully accept their invitation. They afterwards persuaded me to postpone my visit to Canton and remain with them till the morrow. I must confess I was glad of the rest, for this day, especially as its commencement had been an exciting one. In the evening we went to an entertainment at the Sailors' Home.

'My other friend, Mr. C., had kindly undertaken to make enquiries for my letters, which I hoped were awaiting me at the Post Office; judge then my disappointment when I learned that there was but one, and that not from home—not one from you of any kind. I cannot understand it, and have been taken with a violent fit of nostalgia in consequence. It is the more vexatious as I am leaving for a few days, but I saw the postmaster, and he, finding how discomfited I was, took such a kindly interest in my concerns, and said he would make every possible enquiry, and hoped they would have come safely to hand by the time I had returned from Canton.

'After a quiet morning, which was very enjoyable, Mrs. S. was good enough to bring me into town shopping, and afterwards back to the hotel where I intended spending the evening, but discovered a "chit" or note from Mr. C., to say that he would call to take me to his house to dinner. There I have enjoyed myself very much, and now have to finish this letter before going to

bed, as the mail will leave for England on Saturday. I am sitting all the while in mortal terror of the cock-roaches which are skurrying about the floor. I have not yet told you how these enemies of mine abound here. I discovered this to my horror the first evening, when some scampered across the matting while we were sitting at dinner, while others came out of their hiding-places in my room to have a look at me, and made a few excursions across the floor, compelling me in my terror to take refuge on a chair, only to recollect when I had done so, that they can *fly* as well as *run*. The paralysing sort of fear that I have of them is incomprehensible to my friends, and to myself also, for I know they cannot harm me—but it is unconquerable.

'I do not proceed to Canton unprovided with letters of introduction, for each of my friends has given me one; so does my way open up before me and every difficulty get removed. I have here also made enquiries as to the feasibility of my landing at Japan, and the universal testimony is, that I can do so without doubt; nay more, I am advised on no account to omit doing so, as the country is very interesting, and well worthy of a visit.

'I intend to give up my room at this hotel while I am away at Canton, and have made arrangements with the proprietor, that I may leave here, till I come back, so much of my luggage as I do not need to take with me. I have still my traps to pack, and it is late; I must be up betimes to-morrow, so will say farewell.'

CHAPTER VI.

CANTON AND YOKOHAMA.

THE next morning, June 1st, I left at eight o'clock, in the s.s. 'White Cloud,' for Canton. Mr. C. being so very kind as to call at the hotel and take me on board in his own boat, and see me comfortably established before leaving. These steamers run daily to Canton, returning the next, and are built after the model of the American river boats, and are very comfortable. It was an exceedingly hot day, and the 'White Cloud,' which, true to her name, was painted in white, dazzled the eyes most painfully; and looking at the water had the same effect in the fervent heat, so that at the end of the journey I had a splitting headache, and a sensation as if fires had been kindled at the back of my eyeballs. I was the only lady on board, two Parsees and three Europeans being the other saloon passengers. In the steerage we had a great number of Chinese. In case of an outbreak amongst them, or an attack from Chinese pirates, a man is always stationed at the bow, armed with a cutlass and revolver, and there are firearms in the saloon. This arrangement was made on the principle of 'shutting the stable door,' &c., after some

pirates had captured one of the steamers going to Macao—murdered the captain and chief mate, and severely wounded an Englishman.

The first part of the trip was very pretty, the ranges of hills melting away into a deliciously soft and dreamy distance; but when we had proceeded some way up the river, the country became flat and monotonous, and the only redeeming features in the landscape were the paddy fields, which were conspicuous by their emerald green. That was my first introduction to them, and a very pleasant one; but I was destined afterwards to become more closely acquainted with them, when they lost a large amount of the charm they seemed to possess on that day. Farther on I caught the first glimpse of a Chinese pagoda, one and another coming in sight as landmarks on our way; then we came to huts built close down on the banks of the river, and some on piles driven into the water. Never did I see more wretched places of abode, and it made me shiver to think that human beings lived in them, they were so small and looked so dirty and uninhabitable. Some had roofs which were in shape like a toadstool, and they were all crowded together as closely as possible. The navigable portion of the river is very narrow in some parts, especially on approaching Canton, the reason being, I was told, that the Chinese sunk many of their junks, laden with stones, when they were at war with us, to impede our progress.

When we reached the landing-stage, and before the

steamer had come alongside, such a crowd of Chinese had collected—pushing, jostling, and gesticulating as only excited Asiatics can; where they all came from in that minute was what puzzled me. But there they were, some carrying umbrellas, most of them fans, but none having very much clothing. Within sight stood the only two hotels the city affords, and I turned my discouraged gaze from one to the other, finding it impossible to decide which looked the most inviting, for they were both so exceedingly the reverse. They gave one the idea of having once been public-houses in some miserable neighbourhood of London, and then transferred to Canton, and honoured with the title of hotels. I had conferred with the captain on the journey up as to which I should choose, and he had not raised my expectations; but I must say I had not imagined they would present quite such a miserable appearance. He also told me that very often there were fights outside. Since my return home I have read in the papers that one of the buildings suddenly fell in.

My courage was not sufficiently great for me to land and go to either of them, so I made up my mind to send off one of my letters, which was addressed to the Vice-Consul, and await the result. To my very great relief, I soon saw a boat manned by some Chinese servants, which was evidently making for the steamer, and with the English flag at the stern. A few minutes more and I heard a voice asking for me, so stepped forward to answer in person. Mr. G. received me most

kindly, and took me on shore at once in his boat and to his house, which was in the 'Shamien' or European quarter. It was originally a mud flat, but has been embanked and filled in with sand and soil, and a stone wall built round it, and is now a very pretty place. There is a bund, or promenade, in front, also an English church within the borders of the settlement.

As it was still early in the afternoon, Mr. G. took me to see duck-hatching by steam, a business which is extensively carried on by the Cantonese. The eggs having been collected into different sacks according to the time they have been laid, and one on the top marked with the date, they are sorted most carefully, each one that has the slightest flaw being discarded. They are then placed over ovens varying in intensity of heat, the eggs being subjected to an increase each day, till they are considered to have had sufficient, when they are removed; and on putting the egg to the ear faint sounds of life can be heard, and the bird begins to free itself from the shell. The whole thing needs patience and exactitude, and therefore well suits the Chinese character. There are duck-boats on the river, so called because their owners keep quantities of those birds on them, and I was told it was quite a sight to see them, after their daily swim, return at call to their boat-home and scramble in, the last one to get on board being selected to fall a victim when any are needed for food. I was not fortunate enough to see this myself, but received a full and particular account of the saga-

cious way in which they steer straight away to their homes directly they are summoned.

From seeing the duck-hatching we went to some gardens, where the shrubs were trained into different shapes, intended to resemble birds, beasts, fishes, ships, pagodas, &c., similar to those I had seen in the Chinaman's garden at Singapore. They pick and sell the flowers without stalks, just little heaps of the bloom, in what seems to me a sadly wanton way. We then visited the famous Honan Temple, the approach to which is along paved courtways beneath avenues of trees. At the end of the first courtway was a gateway, having on either side huge figures with fierce and flaming countenances, representing the porters or guardians to the sanctuary of Buddha. On entering I was chiefly struck with its resemblance to a Roman Catholic church. There were three images of Buddha, representing the past, the present, and the future; an altar with altar cloth, bouquets of artificial flowers, and, pervading everything, the odour of burning sandal wood, while a dim religious light was shed on all around. There are large grounds in connection with the temple, and in one portion of them sacred pigs, which, as they are not allowed to be killed, lead safe and peaceful lives. Ducks and fowls are kept in the same way in other temples, and I could not help thinking it a fact worthy of notice, that as pork and poultry are the favourite food of the 'Heathen Chinee' (beef and mutton not being eaten), he gives what he likes best as an offering to his gods.

We then went home and I slept at the house of my other friends Mr. and Mrs. C., to whom I had taken a letter of introduction, and from whom I also received the greatest kindness. The next morning, at 7.30, Mr. C. and his daughter took me for a walk through portions of the city, but how utterly impossible do I feel it to be to describe the thousand and one things I saw that day. It would truly need the pen of a ready writer. Most of the streets are very narrow, only just wide enough for two persons to walk abreast, and therefore traversable throughout the day, the sunlight only finding its way into them for a short time. Some are further protected from the heat by pieces of matting spread across from the houses on either side. As can easily be imagined, these streets are thronged with passers by, and horses and vehicles not being used, everything is conveyed from place to place by men. It is in such thoroughfares that one learns the full meaning of the expression 'thread your way along.' The order, patience, and good nature that prevails, notwithstanding the crowd, is surprising. Most of the streets are badly paved and filthily dirty, and the odours anything but agreeable; but the inherent love of bright colours to be found in all Eastern nations gives a picturesque effect to the whole scene. Whenever we stopped to look at anything, numbers instantly gathered round us, but they never annoyed us with impertinent curiosity. From the shops are suspended signboards; they are long and narrow, and as you look down the streets pre-

sent an altogether unique appearance, differing somewhat in length and width, and painted in striking colours. The members of the different trades are often found congregated in one street as in London. On the roofs of some of the houses are windsails, made of a small scaffolding erection, with a covering of sacking spread out to catch the wind. Of advertisements there is no lack, and they are pasted on the walls of the houses and on the gateways; also, Government proclamations, and subscription lists for the temples, with the names of the donors and the amounts given. In front of some houses are notices printed in special colours, either the characters in yellow on a red ground, or *vice versâ*. These are congratulatory notices at a relative's success at an examination. There are men who make it their business to get information of these things immediately, and convey it to the parties concerned. The swiftest messenger gains a small fee.

In the course of the morning's walk I went to see several temples, all very much alike in style, all containing hideous-looking figures representing the gods or saints, with altars covered with cloths, often worked by lady devotees, large bouquets of artificial flowers, burning joss-sticks, and on the ground, mats upon which the worshippers are expected to kneel on entering, place their hands together, and bow low enough to kiss the ground. In most of them is a gong ready for use, should the god be asleep and require rousing. One was dedicated to the god of medicine, and is visited by nume-

rous worshippers, who leave their prayers in the form of scarlet paper with the petitions printed thereon, and pinned to the chest of the god. It became a temple for the following reason :—In former years it was a shop kept by a man who sold herbs and medicines. He was most successful, and considered wonderfully clever by the people. When he died they turned the place into a shrine, where they offered up prayers for recovery from sickness. Believing it to be often blessed, they turned it eventually into a sacred edifice.

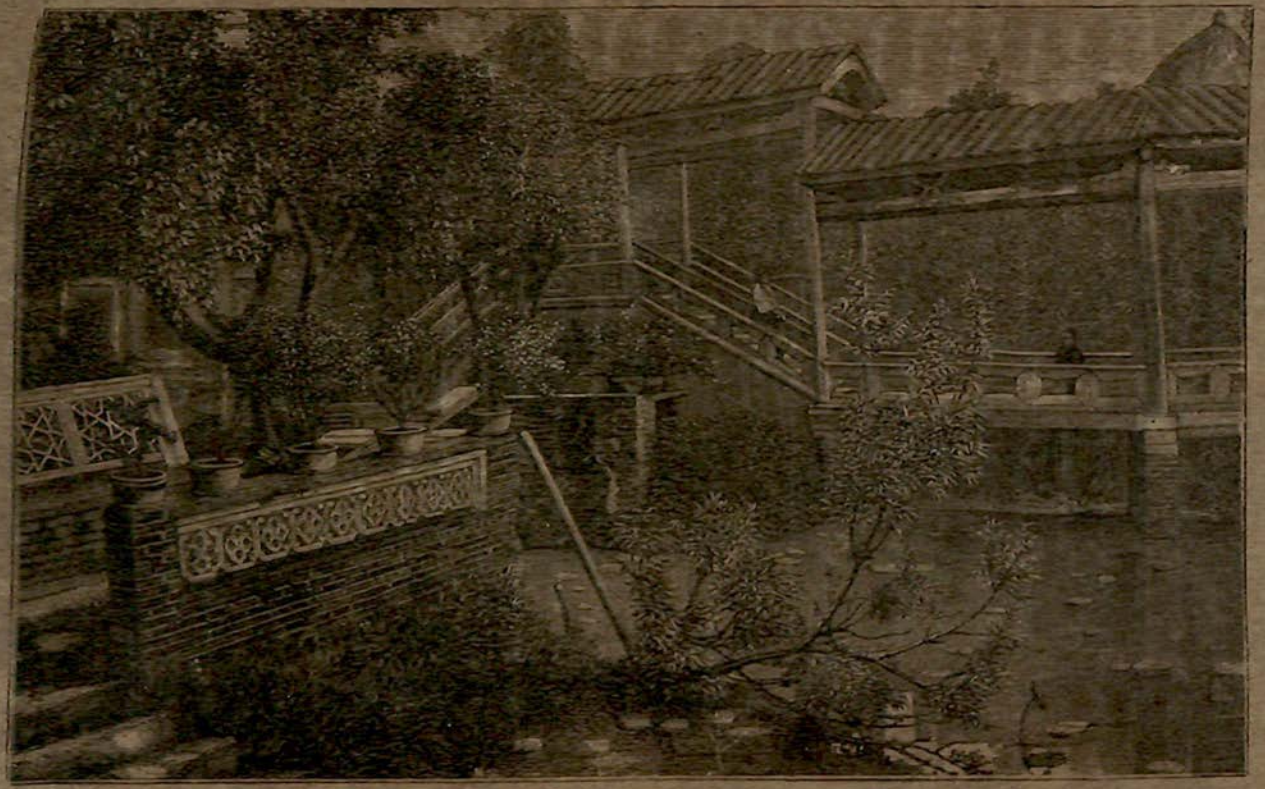
In another temple I saw a quantity of small paper figures, such as we cut out for the amusement of children, which were all placed in front of a god with their heads downwards. I was told this was to signify that the people who put them there wished that all evil spirits might so be hung up by the heels. The priests have entirely shaven heads and faces, and wear long cloaks very similar to surplices. When a man enters upon this vocation he is required to give up his name, never again acknowledging it, and receives another, a religious one, instead; he must relinquish all claim to blood relationship, forfeit any rank or title he may have possessed, also all money, and indeed, become dead to the world. They live together in monasteries, bound under certain rules, and after death are cremated, and their ashes buried close to the temples.

I was also taken to see a marble mausoleum in which is said to be a relic of Buddha, and which is supposed to have undergone some wonderful metamorphosis

during the ages it has lain there ; it has its special day of worship.

I went into an opium-smoking den, with my friend as guide, but as it was early in the morning I saw only empty couches. The smoker, as I believe is well known, lies down to smoke, using a small hard pillow on which to rest his head. The pipe has the bowl about two-thirds down the stem instead of at the end. I think the opium, in a prepared state, is first put on to a needle and held to the fire until quite hot, then inserted into the bowl, when a few whiffs are sufficient to make the smoker drowsy, but only after a systematic course of smoking for some hours is he wafted into the land of dreams of which one hears so much. Those who become slaves to the habit speedily show signs of it in their faces, which have a pallid hue, with sunken eyes and hollow cheeks. I have been told that it gives a spurious kind of strength to the man, so that he rises from smoking with renewed spirits and elastic step ; but in reality it dulls the intellect, stupefying the brain, and saps the vital energies of its victim.

Another time Mr. G. took me to several of the curio shops, and, as usual, we were followed by a crowd. It was a novel experience for me thus to be 'the observed of all observers.' When we were in a shop the doorway and street were lined with gaping citizens, and as we moved on so did they. When I was in my chair too, I generally had a string of followers who every now and then stole glances round the sides at me. During this



THE WILLOW-PATTERN BRIDGE, CANTON.

expedition, I had the opportunity of seeing a Chinese fire brigade as they passed me on their way to a house requiring their help. The coolies as they go along make a sort of grunting noise to announce to loitering pedestrians in front that they wish to pass with their heavy and oftentimes not odoriferous burdens, and on this occasion my attention was first attracted by a greater commotion than usual, and directly afterwards I found that my bearers were jamming my chair up against a wall, and keeping up an animated conversation while doing so. I peered out, curious to know the cause of this sudden excitement, and saw coming towards me a number of Chinese dragging or carrying an engine, I could not tell which, so quickly were they past me, shouting as they came for a free passage, while behind them followed others bearing hose and water-pails. I was told these fire-engines are skilfully managed, John Chinaman's methodical way of doing everything coming into full play in this instance.

But that was not the only interruption we had to our progress that afternoon, for again I found I was being thrust on one side, only this time almost on to the counter of a shop, to make room for a mandarin and his retinue to pass by. He was preceded by his servant carrying his scarlet umbrella, and others followed him. My friend told me that he was showing politeness by pretending not to see this Chinese official, as had recognition passed between them, the latter would have had to get out and come and speak to him.

We went to see the workers in marble, rattan chair-makers, and portrait painters, who were pursuing their noble art in a shop exposed to the admiring gaze of passers-by; theatre-property shops, book shops, drug shops, and mandarin button shops, buttons being worn as insignia of rank, and differing in colour according to the position of the wearer. We also saw coffin shops, tobacco-cutting shops, jade stone shops—where ornaments of all kinds are made out of that much prized stone—and wedding-chair shops. In the latter are to be seen men engaged in making gaily decorated chairs, to be used only on such festive occasions as marriages. Of bird-fanciers there were not a few, for most Chinese have a fondness for birds.

We passed a mandarin's residence, outside the gate of which was hung a kind of lictor's hat, with different instruments for inflicting corporal punishment, like the Roman axe and fasces showing that the owner was a magistrate. My friend, who was so patient and kind in explaining and pointing out everything, showed me the native post-offices. The native post is carried on admirably, and managed by private individuals who take it up as a livelihood, instead of it being a government affair. He also drew my attention to boxes put up in out-of-the-way places and corners of the streets, and always in the courts of the temples, for a very curious purpose, viz., the collection of waste printed matter, it being one of the teachings of Confucius never to let a scrap be used for any other purpose than its

primary one, to be read. The boxes are emptied from time to time, and the contents burned.

The love of gambling is strong in a Chinese, and a coolie will rather run the chance of losing his chow-chow than not stake his few cents on a piece of fish or a dish of rice. One of their superstitions is that their houses should be built straight with the points of the compass, otherwise misfortune will surely fall upon the inmates.

There are trade guilds in Canton as in England, but they are invested with more power than those in our country, being able to pass judicial sentence in many cases, and acting as arbitrators in others. Amongst them is a beggars' guild, and it is a formidable band. The shopkeepers are bound to give something to any of them who may be standing outside when visitors step in, whether they become purchasers or not, and there are sure to be some of the fraternity lolling about ready to seize the opportunity of extorting what they know cannot be refused. A strange and unjust monopoly.

We also went to the temple of the 500 Genii, which are life-size figures of men who for some special virtue have at their death been made saints. They are gilded all over with the exception of the hair, which is painted blue; but in spite of these peculiarities they are wonderfully well made, and with great variety in posture and expression. One is surrounded and half hidden amongst a bevy of children, who are clambering on to his knees, peeping over his shoulders, laughing in his face

which is radiant with smiles, and clustering round him like so many bees. Another has a wee lamb under his arm, and is cherishing it tenderly; while another is trying to tame wild animals, coaxing them to come to him. Another is represented with a book in his hand, others lying near, and a solemn studious look upon his face, indicative of learning and thought; and so on. Service was going on when we entered; four priests, dressed as I have before described, were standing round a small table, each with a different kind of musical instrument in his hand, which he played while chanting in a monotonous tone, what I suppose were prayers. They afterwards put away the table, took up other instruments—a very cracked bell being one of them, and about the best—sat down on low stools and began to play faster and louder, increasing in strength and speed as they went on.

Conspicuous all over the city are the pawnbrokers' shops, which are buildings about five stories high, anything but candles put under a bushel. They are built of firebrick, and have very small windows furnished with iron shutters, in order to stop a current of air from passing through in the event of a fire. Round the edge of the roof are placed loose bricks, ready to be thrown down on any thieves who might attempt to scale the walls. Pawnbrokers drive a roaring trade, for they are not only patronised by people who wish to raise money, as in England, but by all classes, rich and poor, who use these houses as storehouses for their valuables where

they will be secure from fire and thieves. The poorer classes put in their spare suit of clothes, for they think it the height of extravagance to have their best holiday-making garments lying by at home unused; they are redeemed a day or two before the feast days.

There are three special feasts, that of the New Year, the feast of dragons, and the feast of lanterns. Of these, the first is the most important, and towards it all things seem to concentrate. Every debt must be paid before the midnight chimes proclaim the death of the Old Year, and should any be slow to fulfil this duty, the creditors dog the footsteps of their clients, and become their walking shadows until all accounts are settled. Woe betide the man who finds himself unable to meet his claims as the day draws nigh, so disgraceful a thing is it considered, that suicide is often chosen as the most pleasant escape for such trouble. From the moment of the birth of the New Year the feasting and rejoicing begin, and everyone delivers himself over wholly to enjoyment, crackers are let off in every direction unceasingly, and sounds of mirth and music fill the air. Congratulations are exchanged on all hands, the most familiar one being 'get rich,' 'get rich,' every one giving and receiving it, with one exception, the poor coffin-maker, who never receives this or any other good wish. The merry-making lasts for about a week. Of the feasts of lanterns and dragons I do not know anything, except that they are held annually, and that at the former quantities of those coloured-paper lanterns,

which the Chinese make so cleverly, are used; and at the latter, representations of that mythical creature the dragon are carried about in procession. Numbers of crackers are also let off during both seasons of festivity, and indeed, not only at such times, but continually, as they are considered serviceable in driving away any evil spirits that may be hovering in the air—for instance, whenever a junk is about to start on a voyage, as likely to ensure good luck, or at the departure of any person whom they wish to honour.

Amongst the different trades in Canton there is one, which I am thankful to say, cannot be seen in England, I mean the making of their heathen gods. With my own eyes have I seen that done which is so wonderfully described in Isaiah xliv. 13 to 18. In each shop is to be found an altar to the god of wealth, generally placed at the side, with joss-sticks and other votive offerings on it, and in many, placed high up on the wall and opposite the doorway, another and grander altar, dedicated to some others of the deities.

The floating population of China is very great, numbers being born and spending all their lives in the sampans or slipper boats. They pay for shore anchorage as persons on land pay rent, and it is amusing to see the boats coming home in the evening, how skilfully the women, who more often manage them, guide them to their moorings, each fitting in as closely as a puzzle. The junks look clumsy and unmanageable, but are not really so, being easily turned about. I saw one turned

round in the river almost in its own length, and in less than two minutes. The sails, which are made of bamboo-matting, are very heavy, and so need many hands to hoist and lower them. The stern is generally broad and the woodwork of some, handsomely carved. Each boat has an eye painted on the side of the bow, for, as the Chinaman said when asked the reason for this strange adornment, 'supposee ship have got eye, can see; supposee no got eye, *how* can see?'

Their coffins are exceedingly rough-looking, just hollowed out of the trunks of trees, and there is a very strange custom in connection with them which I ought to mention. When a parent gets old the son is expected to present him with one on his birthday, which, after being duly shown to and admired by friends, is carefully put away till required, very often within the sacred precincts of a temple. On the death of any person the friends are expected to send presents to the relatives of the deceased for the funeral, in the shape of money, clothes, banners for the procession, &c.; and the relatives issue invitations to the funeral, with a short sketch or biography of the deceased's life. When the burial rites have been performed, return-thanks cards, or rather papers, for they are large sheets, are sent round; on one side is written the word 'thanks,' and on the other sentences to the effect that each male member of the family 'weeps tears of blood and gives thanks,' &c., &c., to the friends. I saw the funeral of a poor Chinese. First walked some men playing on musical

instruments, one being a tom-tom, the tone of another very much resembling that of a cracked bagpipe; then came coolies carrying votive offerings for the gods (some of which they scattered as they went along), and a supply of food to be placed by the grave of the deceased. Immediately following was the coffin, borne by four men (the number of bearers differs according to the rank or position of the departed), the mourners coming last, dressed in dirty white garments, and supported on either side by sympathising friends, who were really dragging them along. I was told it is the custom for them thus to feign an inability to walk unaided, because of the violence of their grief. They made most hideous wailings as they went. They have a superstitious horror of a dead body except it be one of their own relations, and will not take passage in a vessel conveying one from place to place if they are aware that it is on board.

When a son marries, instead of leaving his old home and setting up another, he brings his bride to his parents' house, and she is expected to do all the roughest and hardest household work and look after the comfort of her father and mother-in law. The birth of a son, therefore, causes great rejoicing, for if he grows up he will be the stay and support of his aged parents. It is only the women of the upper and middle classes who adopt the horrible fashion of squeezing the foot into the orthodox three-inch shoe.

My friend gave me some visiting cards belonging

to certain magistrates and governors of districts; they are of paper, red in colour, and measuring about nine inches in length and four in width, and have the names printed on in Chinese characters. He also gave me one of his own, which is similar in style.

I was disappointed through bad weather of a pleasure planned for me. Mr. G. had promised to take me to see Sir Brooke Robertson's official residence in the city, which was formerly part or the whole (I am not sure which) of the Tartar general's Yamen, and is purely Chinese in construction. On my way thither we were to see the five-storied pagoda, but the rain came down remorselessly, so we reluctantly abandoned the idea. It was my only chance, as I was leaving Canton the next morning, and I was therefore all the more disappointed.

The Tartar and Chinese cities, though so closely together, are distinctly divided and marked out by means of the city walls, which run round each, and the wall of hatred is, I believe, stronger and firmer still. The Chinese are under Tartar government, and every night the keys of the city are duly delivered up at a certain hour to the Tartar general. The Tartar women differ in many respects from the Chinese, being less dark-complexioned and rather better-looking; their dress also is a dirty white garment reaching almost to the ankles, and they do not wear their hair in any elaborate style nor pinch their feet. The Chinese married women, on the other hand, dress their hair in a most peculiar and quite in-

describable way. It is called the tea-pot fashion, and really the erection very much resembles that useful article, the loop at the back being the handle. Ornaments, in shape like shawl brooches, are stuck in here and there. The women of the upper classes use a liberal supply of vermilion and powder to heighten their charms, and employ tire-women to dress their hair. They put on a gummy substance which gives it a stiff and shiny appearance and keeps it smooth for a long time, so that it does not require to be dressed more than two or three times a week. I was curious to know how it looked after a night's rest, but ceased to wonder when I saw the kind of pillow they use. They are pieces of wood about twelve or fourteen inches long, five high, and six or seven deep, covered with different kinds of stuff, some in brightly-coloured damask. The neck and not the head, is placed upon these hard uncomfortable substitutes for our downy pillows. Some serve a double purpose, being also boxes into which the sleeper can put his valuables secure from thieves.

Should John Chinaman appear in a court of law as witness, a few questions, I am told, ought first to be put irrelevant to the subject in hand; such as his name and age, whether he has a father and mother living, and, if so, how old they are, what his trade or profession, how many children he has, if they are boys or girls, and what their respective ages; but no reference, even the most remote, is made to his wife. To have been an eye-witness is not essential in Chinese law, but a man

may come forward to give evidence if he has only been *told* that such and such a thing happened. The perfect command they have of their features, even when uttering falsehoods, must make it somewhat perplexing, I should think, for both the judge and jury; but I was also told that it is possible to tell if a man is speaking truth or the reverse, for, if the latter, while his countenance may be immovable, his thumbs or fingers will move uneasily.

I was disappointed that time would not allow of my making an excursion to the White Cloud Mountains, or 'City of the Dead,' besides many interesting sights nearer to the city; but Monday morning had arrived, and I had to bid farewell to all my kind friends and go on board the 'White Cloud,' bound for Hongkong.

We had proceeded about two-thirds of the distance when the steamer had to be stopped, for a Chinaman had fallen, or more probably jumped, overboard. The captain gave orders for a boat to be lowered and all that was possible done to try and pick him up, but to no purpose. Possibly he had been gambling and lost all his money, and as that is considered a great disgrace, a man who is in such a plight often chooses death rather than life. The rest of the Chinese were surprised at the trouble the captain took concerning him, and no doubt the man himself would not have been best pleased to have been rescued. We had a great number of Chinese in the steerage, and the captain took me to see their quarters. They were very

comfortable and airy; one could scarcely walk along for the numbers stretched on the ground. One man had smoked himself into blissful oblivion, and another lying by his side was preparing to follow suit. Those who were not in too apathetic a state evinced a great amount of curiosity about me, and I must say I used my eyes well in return.

On arriving at Hongkong I found Mr. C. had come down to the wharf on the chance that I might have returned that day, for I had left it uncertain whether I should come on the Saturday or Monday. I found out afterwards that he had also taken the trouble to meet the boat when it came in on Saturday. This will help to show to what an extent my friends manifested their kindness, never allowing me to feel a stranger or forlorn.

'Hongkong, June 10th.

'You will be glad to learn I have received all your letters at *last*, with the exception of the one sent to Shanghai, and this I fear I shall never get. They were glorious budgets, and I felt as if I could not enjoy them enough, having been so long without news from home. I am so glad to hear the telegram has reached you; it is a great relief to me, for I began to have nightmare on the subject. But be assured that if I were ill or any other misfortune had befallen me you would speedily hear of it, for "ill news flies apace." I am also glad to hear that my box has arrived safely; but remember, please, that you will have another heap of rubbish, in

the shape of now useless baggage, before you see me. What I have at present is in a very portable condition, and no trouble.

'My impressions of Canton, and the thousand and one things I saw there, I cannot detail in this letter; but I shall never forget my visit, nor the interest it afforded me; and there as everywhere the friends to whom I took letters of introduction showed me exceedingly great kindness, and never seemed to mind how much trouble they took to make my stay agreeable.

'On my return from Canton, Mr. C., who came to meet me and take me to the hotel, said he and his wife would call in about an hour's time, and that then we should all go over to the mainland for a blow, Hongkong being an island. They came, and we then walked to the wharf, but while the boat was being lowered went into the City Hall, which was close by, and contains a large ball-room, concert-room, theatre, and library. It is a very fine building, fronting the water, while behind it, farther up the hill to the left, is the Cathedral, with handsome private residences still higher in the background, making altogether a very pretty picture when viewed from the harbour. Hongkong has a most unproductive soil. An Englishman was once talking to a Chinese about it, saying how bad it was, so that it would produce nothing, to which he replied, "No;" adding slowly, after a long pause, "except stones!" The ground is strewn with them, and it is only with labour and trouble that gardens can be

planted, so that but a few of the private houses are able to boast of such pleasant additions. We rowed over to Kowloon, landed and walked up a hill to get a view and breeze, and were well rewarded.

'The next day I went up to my other friends, Mr. and Mrs. S., to spend a day or two, and here I have been ever since. That was Tuesday, and this is Thursday, so you will be able to tell what the *ever* embraces. I received a very warm welcome back again, and they said they had been expecting me the day before. I explained how I had been met on my return and captured by Mr. C. Yesterday we went round to a friend's house, and then started in chairs for the "Peak," a hill which rears its head above its fellows, and is honoured with that name. A little short of the summit is what is called the "gap," whence very pretty views can be obtained of the other side of the island, and generally a breeze, which we had. Hill after hill was stretched out before the eye, sloping to the sea, with rugged rocks jutting out and forming small bays, the whole somewhat resembling our Cornish coast; while at our feet lay the little fishing village of Aberdeen, with a small fleet of Chinese junks riding at anchor. The governor has a summer residence up at the Peak, and there are several bungalows to which people resort to escape from the trying heat.

'The sun shone out fitfully, the ever-changing clouds making him dispense his beams in a sparing and partial manner; in fact, he and the mists were

having a struggle for mastery, and though for a while it seemed as if he would be victor and chase the enemy from the hollows, he was eventually compelled to succumb, and the clouds closed around us like a white pall. Finding the battle decided, we turned our faces homeward. At first I did not like the descent, for it was rather steep, and I felt as if the coolies would find it impossible to keep their footing with the burdens on their shoulders, especially as the chairs are not difficult to overbalance. I found though that they were very surefooted, and so well trained to their work that I need have no fear. We dined with our friends, and afterwards went home in our chairs by moonlight, a charming end to a charming day.

'The coolies had carried us most untiringly and cheerfully all the way. They are so good-natured and willing as a rule, but the chatter-magging they keep up is incessant, and makes one wonder how they can find so much to talk about. They are capable of going a distance of thirty miles a day, resting every now and then for a meal of rice, which they on no account make a heavy one until their work is done. They wear shoes, or rather soles, for they are no more than that, made of the straw of the bamboo, and tied on to the feet with string. Their hats, which they only sometimes wear, have small crowns and large brims, big enough to serve as umbrellas, and very flat. Their pigtails they often twist up into a knot at the back of their heads. The length of these important appendages is sometimes increased

by silk cord which is plaited in with the ends of the hair, while some have false hair added, making a long thick tail of which the wearer is very proud. The ends are tied with silk, differing in colour according to whether the person is in or out of mourning. The front of the head is entirely shaved. The barbers drive a brisk trade, as no Chinaman shaves his own head or dresses his pigtail, and as their shops are open to the street, the process is exposed to the gaze of the passers by. It is not the fashion to walk much here, and as it is so hilly, I do not quarrel with the custom.

'I cannot say that I care much for my quarters at the "Hongkong Hotel." My room is large, but barely furnished, and as soon as it is dark the cockroaches come out in such numbers that I live in a perpetual state of fear. If I leave my portmanteau open for a little while, some are sure to find their way in, so that the next time I burrow among its contents, I discover these wretches in their hiding places. I dare not hang my dresses in the wardrobe lest they find a harbour therein, and I go about as much as possible with my eyes shut. Other insects also pay me nocturnal visits—immense spiders, and some wonderful-looking things which I found drowned in my wash-hand basin after a night of dissipation spent in humming and buzzing about my room, to my great discomfiture. You will see, therefore, that I do not lack for company, if such it can be called, with these and a whole host of mosquitos.

'The few meals I have had at the hotel I have taken

in my room, for there are but a small number of ladies in the place, but many gentlemen, some of whom I can testify play billiards till late at night, and are not very quiet. It appears to me large, bare, noisy, and dirty. I have received every attention and kindness, however, and my room "boy" is a very willing fellow, always ready to do anything I ask him. We often make very amusing attempts to understand each other's speeches, my Pidgin-English being anything but fluent, and his not very comprehensible. The same laughable difficulty has arisen between the laundryman and myself. The Chinese do not seem to know that their lips should be used in speaking, and conduct all their conversation, as it were behind the scenes, in their throats and mouths. I cannot say I find the Pidgin-English at all easy to learn, and I think it is a pity that such a corruption of our language was ever commenced.

'To-day we are spending quietly; to-morrow I leave here after tiffin, and go with Mr. and Mrs. C. to hear the band play in the gardens, and home with them in the evening, the next day returning here till Monday.

'Saturday, June 10th. Have just a few minutes in which to get this finished. The steamer for Yokohama will most probably arrive on Monday and leave again on Tuesday, so my stay here is rapidly drawing to a close. Farewell.'

'Messageries Maritimes, June 14th.

'On Saturday morning I had to make a very hasty ending to my letter and rush out to post it, a trans-

action I always perform myself when staying at hotels. At twelve o'clock Mrs. S. called for me, and we went to see the law courts, and afterwards to a friend's to tiffin. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. S. had a small dinner party, which I should have been able to enjoy much more, had I not been feeling far from well. On Sunday I felt no better, and rest was most acceptable.

'On Monday, I had reluctantly to say "good bye" to my kind friends, and go back to town. I then went to lunch at Mr. C.'s, and we afterwards went altogether to the "Happy Valley," which is a little way out of the city. It is a very pretty spot, so that the name is suitable. It has been made into a racecourse by the Hongkong residents, and would seem to have been formed with that purpose in view by Nature herself. On the hill side to the right are the silent cities of the dead belonging to the many different faiths.

'In the evening we went to an entertainment at the Temperance Hall. I learned then that the mail steamer would not be leaving till Wednesday, so I had one more day's respite. That soon flew by, however, and the morning arrived when I must again take up my abode on the broad ocean. Mr. C. called for me at 9.30 A.M., and brought me on board the coasting steamer. I have a very comfortable cabin to myself in which all my worldly goods are cosily stowed away. There are very few passengers, and only one lady. In consequence of the boat having left Hongkong somewhat later than was expected, I shall have but two days to spend in Yoko-

hama before starting for San Francisco if I go on at the time I intended, and must therefore decide whether it will not be better to remain and catch the next steamer, and thereby give myself the opportunity of seeing something of Japan. It seems thus to be my fate to be tempted to depart from my original plans, but it would be foolish to come such a distance and miss seeing places and things, simply in order not to deviate from arrangements previously made. I must wait till I have landed to determine finally what it will be wise to do.

'Sunday, 18th. Every day has been wet, and we have been chiefly favoured with head winds, so that the saloon or one's cabin are the most comfortable places of resort. Neptune has been ruling with despotic sway over our one other lady passenger, so that she has rarely been able to put in an appearance at meal times, and I have been therefore, very often, the sole representative of my sex. I have had to succumb but little. The temperature has been getting lower and lower, until to-day it is quite cold, so we have not had much enjoyment out of the voyage. It has also been an uneventful one, the only piece of excitement having occurred the first night just when we had all retired to our cabins. I was about to go through the gymnastics necessary for getting into the upper berth, when I found the engines suddenly stopped, and heard a confused mingling of cries and screams, suggestive of drowning people. The passengers rushed out to ask what was the matter, and after a few minutes of suspense we found that we had

just escaped running down a junk which was minus a light.

'This morning while we were at breakfast, the bell was again sounded for us to come to a standstill, but this time because the weather was very thick and land rather near on either side. The first day's run was about three hundred and sixteen miles, and the rest have averaged about two hundred and fifty, which, with a head wind and high sea running, is *tolerably* good; but the engines are very noisy. There is really nothing to write about, for the days are monotony itself, and this one about as cheerless as outward circumstances can make it. I have a letter to Mr. W., Manager of a Bank in Yokohama; another to Mrs. D., and a third to a Mr. and Mrs. S., but I find the latter are living just now in Yeddo, so that unless I pay a visit to that city, I may not have occasion to use it.

'Thursday evening, 8 P.M., June 20th. The captain has just offered to have any letters I may care to send, forwarded to the homeward mail boat, directly we get into harbour to-night; she will leave at daylight to-morrow, so I shall close this. We expect to be at our destination in about two hours' time. On this our last day the weather seemed to make up its mind to be cheerful, and we were quite delighted to renew our acquaintance with the sun. We shall arrive too late to land to-night, but shall go on shore early in the morning.'

'Yokohama, Saturday, June 24th.

'This letter must necessarily be a short one, as I was not aware till just now of the opportunity of sending; still you will be wishing to know something of my doings. We dropped anchor at 10.30 P.M. on Tuesday, and the quiet night in harbour was most acceptable after the tossing we had been having. It was a lovely evening, so calm and still, and the shadowy forms of the ships looked like weird phantoms in the darkness, while groups of lights gleaming and twinkling in the distance showed where the town was situated, and others close round belonging to the vessels, looked as if the stars had come down to dance upon the water.

'The next morning was gloriously bright and sunny, and on coming on deck I saw Yokohama lying along the shore, with Fusiyama rearing its crown of glistening snow in the background. It is striking, not so much from its height, which is between 13,000 and 14,000 feet, but from its isolated position. Like a queen it sits alone, while around are grouped mere hills, as courtiers waiting to do homage to her regal beauty. This, my first sight of it, was everything I could wish, and I did not wonder that the Japanese should have chosen it as a sacred mountain, believing as they do in the worship of the works of Nature. After feasting my eyes on this pretty scene, I gathered my traps together preparatory to landing. The captain, who was very kind, though eccentric, when he found I was leaving, said he would send me on shore in one of

the ship's boats, a far pleasanter arrangement than delivering myself over to the mercy of the natives, as I had been forced to do at Hongkong.

'On reaching *terra firma*, the two French sailors were very polite and attentive, and instead of leaving me forlorn with my baggage to reach the hotel as best I might, one of them said that if I would get into a Jinrickisha (what that is you shall know presently), he would follow directly with my boxes. I obeyed his instructions, and waited till he had brought out the baggage and put it into another Jinrickisha. Meanwhile several Japanese gathered round to have a good stare at me, evidently engaged in a lively discussion concerning my apparel, a great deal of which I have no doubt they considered superfluous, judging from the amount they usually wear everywhere except in towns and cities.

'Now for the best description I can give you of Jinrickishas. They are the kind of little carriage in which people get about in Japan, and are something between a miniature Hansom cab and a perambulator. They are generally made to carry but one person, and are drawn by men instead of horses, who run between shafts. They can go at great speed and for long distances.

'The hotel to which I was going was very near, but I had first to surrender my impedimenta to inspection by the custom house officers. They would not let it pass without molestation, so, in the public street, I had two of the portmanteaux unstrapped and vainly searched

for contraband goods, while a cigar box filled with a few curios I had bought in Canton, they quietly allowed to escape their observation. I went on my way rejoicing at having been let off so easily, and the sailor would not hear of deserting me till I reached the hotel, when, having seen me and my baggage safely housed, he would accept only of my thanks. Three cheers, I say, for Jack tar!

'A Japanese, seeing me enter, came forward, and I said I wished to have a room. He replied in good English that he would send the housekeeper to me, and in a few minutes a prim-looking English matron made her appearance and asked me to follow her. Upstairs she went, preserving a severely solemn demeanour, quite too freezing, and led me into a very comfortable room in the front overlooking the harbour; then, fixing her cold grey eyes upon me, asked if I were alone. I looked her steadily in the face and replied, "Yes, quite alone." An awkward pause ensued, during which her eyes studied the pattern of the carpet earnestly, and I awaited my fate, conscious of a mingled feeling of amusement and chagrin at the ordeal through which I was passing, and the probable issue of it, as I did not very much wish to be politely told to seek a temporary home elsewhere. That I did not have to do, for presently she asked if I had breakfasted, and from that I knew I had come out victoriously. I replied I had not, and then playing my trump card, asked her to be good enough to have two letters forwarded for me directly,

one to Mrs. D. and another to Mr. W. The names acted like magic, and she assumed an air of motherly interest in me which has lasted ever since.

'In about two hours' time Mr. D. called and proposed that he and his sister should come and take me to see the curio town in the afternoon, asking me to go up afterwards and spend the evening with them. He said they regretted being unable to invite me to stay with them, but their house just then was full. Mr. W. called soon after, and also said he was sorry not to be able to make me his guest just now, his wife being away at the seaside, but that she would be returning in a few days, and he hoped that I would then make his house my home. I told him that I was thinking of proceeding to America in three days' time, but on hearing this he strongly urged me to make up my mind to wait for the next steamer, as the country was so well worth seeing. I thanked him very much for his kind invitation, and said I should require time to consider his advice, but that if I decided to make a longer stay I would gratefully accept his hospitality. He also put his carriage at my disposal for the afternoon to go to the curio town, adding that he hoped I would not hesitate to ask for it during his wife's absence if I wished for a drive. So again I have fallen amongst the kindest of friends, who will not allow me to feel a stranger in their midst for a moment.

'We made such an enjoyable tour of inspection of the curio shops; but how I longed for the riches of Crœsus

that I might be able to buy all the tempting things I saw. The power of saying "no" ought to be wonderfully strengthened in me if constant exercise tends towards that result. In most of the shops we never thought of giving the prices first asked, but coolly offered about half; but in a few they were affixed to the different goods, and as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. My friends took me home, and I was introduced to Mrs. D., who gave me a very warm welcome. I could not but feel at home with her, and after a most pleasant evening I went back to my quarters at the hotel. The next day (Thursday) was dreadfully wet, and I spent it with Mrs. D., also yesterday and to-day, and am going with them to a friend's to dinner this evening. The weather has been all the time in a gloomy, crying mood, but this morning we resolved not to be kept prisoners any longer, and sallied forth for a walk, and afterwards for a drive round the racecourse. The latter would have been beautiful if the day had not been so dull and sunless. Hills covered with foliage guarded lovely little valleys shaded in blue mist; and when, having reached the course and turned our faces homeward, we suddenly rounded the spur of the hill and found the sea fronting us, the charm was complete. Still further on, the steep and winding road looked as if it led straight down into the sea, while to the right was a little village, in which the brown thatched roofs of the houses, nestling together, made a sweet quiet contrast to the green of the hillsides and the paddy

fields lying beyond. The odour from the latter was anything but pleasant, and they are best seen at a distance, for on coming near one perceives the mud and water in which the rice grows, and in which the men and women have to stand up to their knees, leeches clinging to their bare legs, while employed at the work of transplanting it.

'Mrs. D. drove, and the "betto," or coachman, ran by the side of the horse, keeping up apparently without any trouble. It is the practice for them thus to go with you either when riding or driving, even to the distance of twenty or thirty miles; they are splendid runners, taking long springing strides and throwing up their heels nearly to their shoulders. The horses, being accustomed to these running companions, do not go well without them, but it is some time before one can get used to having these fleet followers.

'I do not know what you will think of your truant child, but I have decided to remain here until the next steamer, everyone advising me strongly so to do; many delightful excursions are already being planned for my delectation.

'On Monday I leave for Yeddo, or Tokio, as the Japanese prefer to have it called, for Mr. and Mrs. S., immediately on receiving my letter of introduction, wrote and asked me to go and stay with them for a day or two, that they might show me something of the city. This was delightful, for I much wished to see it, but otherwise should have had to take up my abode

at an hotel and engage an interpreter to go about with me on expeditions of sight-seeing—not nearly so pleasant an arrangement. I have spent very little time at the hotel in this place, as you will see, but have found it exceedingly comfortable. My room has a delightful look-out on to the bay, and is nicely furnished in European style. The housekeeper continues to look after me with motherly interest. The table kept is very good. The few meals I have had I have taken in my room, and am nicely waited upon by Japanese men-servants. They speak and understand only a little Pidgin-English, so that I am getting quite expert at pantomimic gestures. The one word "hey" seems to be their *pièce de résistance*, for they use it continually —when they do understand your commands and when they don't, when they enter your room to ask what you wish, and when they leave it; and, pronounced in their slovenly way, it sounds like little more than a grunt. I shall give up my room when I leave for Yeddo, as on my return I am invited to go direct to Mr. W.'s.

'The English mail has come in to-day, and I am indulging in a small hope that there may be a letter for me; but I will not allow myself to be disappointed if I do not get one, but only possess my soul in patience till I reach "Frisco."'

'The Bluff, Yokohama, July 3rd.

'This must be a short epistle, giving you just the outline of my doings since I last wrote, and leaving my journal to record the details.

'On the Monday morning that I was to go to Yeddo I woke to find it pouring in torrents, and the wind howling dismally. My spirits fell below zero. At nine o'clock Mr. D. called to go with me to the station. We had about a quarter of an hour's drive in Jinrickishas, and as it was so wet were obliged to have the coverings of yellow oiled paper let down, whereby *we* were entirely closed in, and *all view* entirely shut out. This railway is well managed by the Japanese, and they use it considerably. It seemed so strange to be travelling by the iron horse once more, for I had not done so since I left Sydney some four or five months ago. It is a distance of between seventeen and eighteen miles to Yeddo, and the journey occupied about an hour, by which you will perceive that the speed was not dangerous. The carriages are comfortable, and after the style of those on the Swiss railways. I was the only European lady in the train, and had a compartment to myself, the Japanese in the next one finding ample employment in gazing at me. We passed very pretty country, well cultivated, with small villages and hamlets dotted about on the landscape, but as I am not clever at describing scenery and think the most beautiful might suffer under the process, I will not make the attempt. All things were in a decidedly moist state, for the rain kept coming down persistently in the most melancholy manner. We stopped at five or six stations along the route, which, from their European look and queer native names, seemed strange paradoxes. It was

almost impossible to realise that I was in this far-off land except when catching a glimpse of the faces and quaint costumes of the people. On approaching our destination, the guard, dressed in European attire, politely came to tell me, in broken English, that we should be at Tokio immediately.

'As I walked down the platform I was followed by quite a company of Japs, who were very openly discussing me and my wearing apparel. Outside the gate I found Mrs. S., who, notwithstanding the heavy rain had come to meet me. Being strangers, we could only make guesses at each other's identity. Mine was no difficult matter, for there was expectancy in her eyes, but I discovered afterwards that hers was by no means so easy, for the letter I had forwarded had simply introduced me by name as a lady travelling round the world alone, consequently both she and Mr. S. had jumped to the conclusion that I was a strong-minded female of uncertain age. Owing to this idea having taken possession of her mind (as she told me afterwards), she could not believe that the "little person" coming towards her could be the one she was looking for. It was the source of much amusement between us when we became more acquainted.

'My ride from the station to her house I shall never forget, for having again to be shut in to the Jinrickisha on account of the wet, it seemed interminable, and the speed at which we went was so great, over such fearfully rough roads, that I began to doubt whether I

should arrive with a sound limb in my body. We jolted, we bumped, we jerked, we rattled along till it was by little short of a miracle that I contrived to keep in. The most provoking part was not to be able to see where I was being taken to, and it was therefore with no small amount of relief that I found myself at my journey's end.

'Since it was evident that the weather would not be accommodating to our wish to go sight-seeing, it behoved us to arrange to see something which would not expose us to its damping effects. My friends hit upon exactly the most delightful proposal possible; viz., a visit to one of the native theatres. Accordingly, after tiffin, we again got into Jinrickishas, making this time quite a procession with our five vehicles. Once, my man, striving to get ahead of another, locked wheels, when there followed an amount of jabbering quite surprising, and I was nearly overturned. But that catastrophe was happily averted, for though it would doubtless have been a soft tumble, it would certainly have been a muddy one. We stayed about three hours, but I have not time in this letter to give an account of what I saw.

'The next day we went to tiffin at Lady Parkes', and afterwards to Asakusa and Ueno, places of interest a little way out of Yeddo, and in the evening friends came to dinner. On the next we went to the temples of Sheba, which once having seen, one can never forget.

'The following morning, with many regrets that my

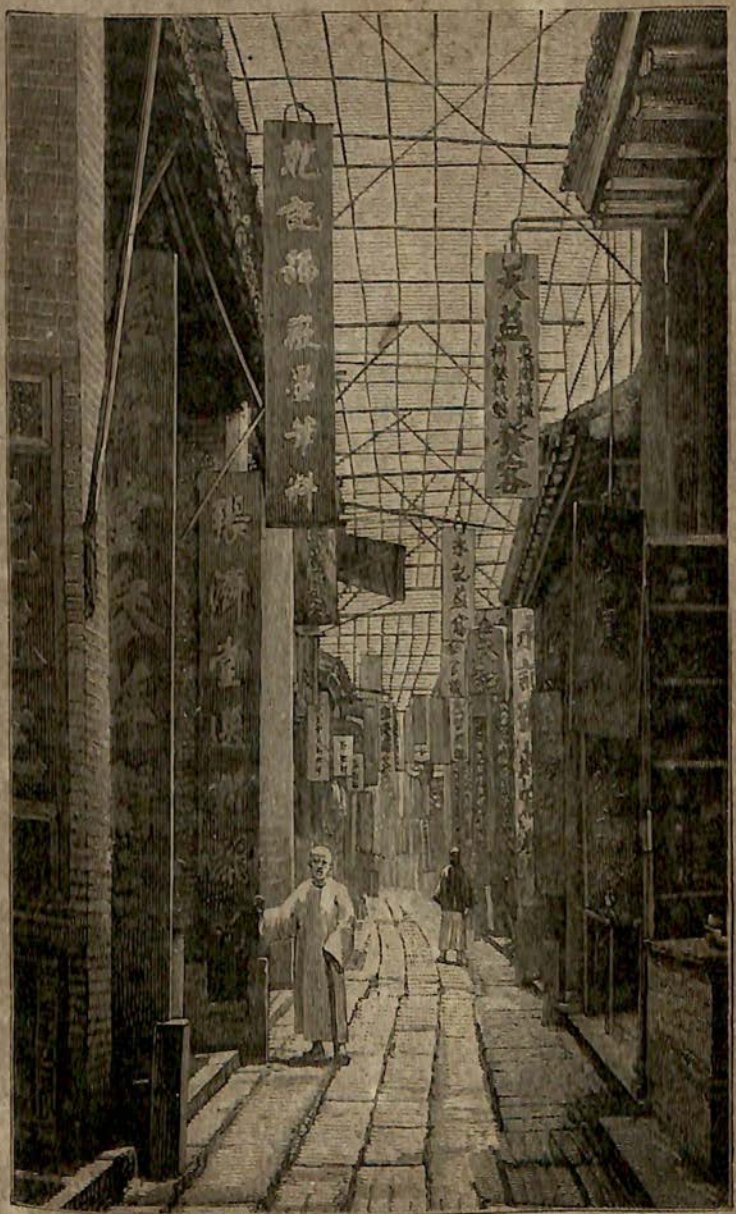
stay was necessarily so short, I left for Yokohama. My trip had been intensely delightful, and Mr. and Mrs. S. were kindness itself.

'Mr. W. met me at the station with his phaeton, and took me as guest to his house, his wife giving me a very kind welcome. The next evening I went to a dance given by a French gentleman, and coming home from that late, or rather early, had just a few hours' rest, and then was up again and off with friends to Inoshima, a lovely spot, about seventeen miles distant. We returned the next day, after a long and fatiguing ride in Jinrickishas; and, as I had been unable to get any sleep the night before, on account of rats scampering over my head, and a concert kept up by marsh frogs in a pond close to the house, you will not be surprised that I felt rather tired out.

'I have been advised to send home from here any curios I may buy, and have decided to do so, with also a few more of my belongings that I can now dispense with. The amount of luggage allowed to travellers in America is very small, and the charge made for any over and above, very excessive, so I shall reduce mine as much as I can. We are having a great deal of wet weather, and some days it has been cold enough for a fire to be acceptable. My host and hostess show me every possible kindness.

'July 4th. Pour, pour, pour; drip, drip, drip; such is the programme of the day. It is a raw, damp cold, too, and scarcely once has Fusiyama lifted her veil of

white mist and shown us her charms. I am told this weather is quite exceptional for the season. This is the "glorious fourth," so the American ships are gaily dressed with flags, and entertainments of different kinds are being given by Brother Jonathan to his friends. There is no American man-of-war stationed here just now, or there would be still grander doings. I have but just time to finish this, as the mail is leaving.'



STREET IN CANTON.

CHAPTER VII.

YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO, YOSEMITE VALLEY, AND SALT LAKE CITY.

YOKOHAMA being a European settlement, it gives one but little idea of Japanese life, therefore my visit to Yeddo was delightful, as affording me the opportunity of seeing one of their cities and more of their manners and customs. It is now the capital of Japan, having been the seat of government since the civil war of 1868, and is where the Mikado usually resides. Prior to that, the Tycoon or temporal ruler lived there, and the Mikado or spiritual ruler at Kiyoto, the latter taking no active part in government affairs, but living in retirement, and regarded in somewhat the light of a god. In those times, should he have any occasion to leave his palace and grounds, a command was issued that all the citizens should stay within their houses that they might not look upon him. Now there is no Tycoon, but both spiritual and temporal power are vested in one supreme head, and the Mikado, no longer looked upon as something more than human, is free to go amongst his subjects, receiving from them the honours due to a sovereign. It must have seemed to

him, I should think, like the opening of doors to the prisoner, and the breaking of bands to the oppressed.

The city is very large, extending, I was told, over an area of about twelve miles. There is one very wide street which they have called the 'Boulevard.' It is lighted with gas, and many of the buildings therein are somewhat after the European style. Most of the roads are simply execrable, and one needs to be strapped together before starting on a Jinrickisha ride along them.

Outside the houses are often to be seen stacks of little wooden pails filled with water, which are placed there in case of fire, and are also used in watering the streets. I saw a woman catch up one, and throw the contents over the dry and dusty street; go back to refill it, and repeat the action till just a few yards were made sloppy, when she retired, evidently satisfied with her doings.

I must say something of my visit to a Japanese theatre, one of the best in Yeddo. They are open from about seven in the morning till seven or eight in the evening, and the people often go for the whole day, the mothers taking their babies. One play generally occupies from twelve to fourteen days. We went at three o'clock and stayed till six. When our two-legged steeds suddenly drew up, it was raining so heavily I did not stop to look at the outside of the building, but made a dash through mire and water to a doorway, in and out of which the people kept swarming like bees.

Just inside was a dark passage, wherein all the odours that proceed from rain-soaked garments seemed to be concentrated. There we waited, attracting considerable attention as strangers and foreigners, whilst one of our party fulfilled the duties of paymaster. Then, just as we were struggling to mount a very steep staircase, in company with about twice as many as could pass up it at one time, our director-general recalled us, and made the startling proposal that we should first of all go on a tour of inspection behind the scenes and into the green room and dressing rooms. This we found to be quite an ordinary proceeding; and the opportunity was a good one, there being just then a pause in the proceedings for the preparation of fresh scenery. The stage is a revolving one, four-sided, with each set of scenery ready to be turned to the audience when required. When all have served their purpose, an interval in the acting occurs, and the carpenters set to work to knock up others. We found men very busy, hammering, making a deafening noise, others tugging and lugging at very heavy boards and beams, raising plenty of dust, and compelling us to keep a sharp look-out lest we should have something heavier than we should like suddenly deposited upon our heads or toes; and altogether such din and confusion that we did not care to stay long, but hurried away to inspect the dressing rooms, &c.

In the latter we found men busy painting and powdering their faces, and putting sundry final touches to

their appearance. One man was doing a little acting on his own account; but on our popping in our heads he subsided quickly, looking very sheepish. Several of them were got up as women (the fair sex never being actresses), and looked quite creditable.

Afterwards we went through more dark passages, in which vile odours encountered us continually, coming at last to another room where some of the principal actors await their turn to appear before the audience; they then walk on to a narrow platform which runs right through the midst of the people, and so up to the stage. The more unimportant enter from doors at the side or at the back.

Many were doing the same as ourselves, trotting about and peering into all the adjoining rooms. Our tour of inspection over, we were led up stairs, and through a kind of gallery with numbers of doors on one side, which opened into little theatre boxes, and as many of them were ajar we were favoured with a view of the occupants. They were crouching down on the foo-tongs or mats, with dainty wee trays beside them, holding cups either of saki or tea, saucers full of all kinds of nasty eatables—raw fish, salted or dried, pickled sea-weeds, or seeds or weeds, or a conglomeration of all these, and the inevitable rice: meat they do not eat. A 'Moos-mee,' or girl, once gave me some pickled seeds to taste, and was intensely astonished at the change that came over my face directly, and the speedy efforts I made to be rid of what she esteemed a choice morsel.

Most of the women and girls handled either a baby or a fan; and an 'hibatchi' or box containing a small pan of live coals, a tiny spittoon, and a supply of pipes and tobacco, was placed close by, for the delectation of both men and women. Into one of these small compartments we were ushered, with a great deal of bowing on the part of the Jap who showed us in. They are a most polite people, and their salutations very impressive. They bow repeatedly very low, placing the palms of their hands on their knees, and when the tea-house girls wait upon you at meals, they go down on their knees in an entirely irresistible way.

In kind consideration of our peculiar preference for chairs to sitting on our heels, they contrived to get four, and there was just enough space to edge them in; our Japanese interpreter taking up his position in the doorway ready to render us his services. Directly after we had settled ourselves some girls came to offer us tea, in tiny cups only half filled, and without saucers. It was very hot, rather weak, and innocent of milk or sugar. A sip was enough for me, for that burnt my mouth. Later on they brought us some plums, which had not begun to think of being ripe, so they shared the same fate as the tea. They always gather fruit before it is ripe, and pickle a great deal of it. After another interval they brought us saki, and, determined to taste everything, I took some, but it was quite too nasty. It is distilled from rice, and is drunk hot. This and tea are their two beverages. Meanwhile we

had plenty to look at. Our neighbours were only divided from us by a board about a foot high, and we showed a considerable amount of curiosity in one another, only exhibited in politely stolen glances. They kept on, alternately eating, drinking, and smoking, only taking a mouthful, a sip, or a whiff each time, but continuing with astonishing perseverance till the atmosphere was anything but pleasant. Below there were more tiny boxes sloping towards the stage, so as to allow the occupants to see well, and the divisions between each were about eighteen inches high, and sufficiently wide for a man to walk along with trays of chow-chow. These men seemed to keep up a brisk trade. Directly the acting commenced comparative quiet was restored, only broken by the audience hissing vehemently or laughing heartily. The play was a conspiracy against a prince, and seemed to unite the tragic plentifully with the comic. One man committed hari-gari and another took poison during the three hours we were there, so there is no knowing what delightful horrors may be enacted while the play lasts.[1] Musicians were boxed up on either side of the stage, and from time to time gave forth the most dismal sounds it has ever been my lot to listen to, occasionally 'piling the agony' by a little vocal assistance very much like the squalling of cats, and ending by a fearful and long-sustained howl.

[1] I ought perhaps to explain what hari-gari is. A prisoner condemned to death, if he be of noble birth, is permitted to put an end to his existence by thrusting a sword into his heart.

When some of the more important actors came on, there was great clapping of hands, &c., but the funniest thing of all was, that with each of them came a small boy, who followed close at his heels, crouching down as he walked, and dressed entirely in black, a thick piece of black stuff even covering his face. This he lifted a little when he wished to see anything but the ground. His part was prompter, and his sable raiment was intended to suggest the idea that he was invisible—not at all bordering on a joke. Having reached the stage he took up his position behind his man, and when he moved, moved with him. Darkness soon came on, and then others of these queer little fellows, looking still more eerie than in the daylight, brought candles stuck into candlesticks attached to long sticks. They crept along the ground, out of sight as much as possible, and placed them in a row as footlights. They then flitted about, lighting candles in ancient-looking candelabra, and finally brought more candles like the footlights, and by means of the long sticks held them up just in front of the chief actors. Meanwhile men hung coloured lanterns round the gallery, the light they gave being not much more than just sufficient to make darkness visible, while down below still more were stuck about. All of them began to get a guttery and disreputable appearance very soon, and moreover kept the boys and men well-employed, either snuffing them or putting fresh ones in their places whenever they were burnt out, so that altogether the lighting could not be called a grand success.

The play was going on with fervour, the Prince and his courtiers coming on the scene in pomp and ceremony and gorgeous clothing. Before him there appeared the offending subject (whose conspiracy had been discovered by a woman), and his companions in guilt; also a number of loyal subjects as witnesses. They took up their positions on separate sides, and kneeled with their foreheads touching the ground, only popping up their heads now and then in a most comical manner when they had to speak, and subsiding again as speedily. The triumphant looks of the witnesses as time went on, and the growingly dejected air of the conspirators, was very well acted. The costumes became still grander as the afternoon wore on, and we were favoured with a view of the court dress of former days (I believe it is not in vogue now), which is very peculiar, and consisted of a long cloak made of the richest brocaded satin, with wing-like pieces stretching out stiffly a good way beyond the shoulders of the wearer, the ordinary collar opened *en cœur*, and a band or girdle encircling the waist. The trousers were also made of very splendid material, but just twice as long as required; they trailed behind in a unique fashion, making the man look as if he were moving along kneeling; when he came to a standstill he cleverly jerked them straight out on each side and sat down. The Japanese much patronise their theatres, considering them a means of learning the past history of their country.

The next day, in the afternoon, Mr. S. and I started

off for Ueno, he on horseback, I in a Jinrickie. It is one of the outskirts of Tokio, and where there are some nice public gardens, which have been lately altered and improved by the Japanese government, and made into a pleasant resort for the people. From a grassy knoll we had a capital view of the city, and I was much surprised at its size, such acres of roofs and such a sea of houses. Plentifully sprinkled about the gardens were the pretty tea-houses and refreshment-stalls, looking daintily clean and cool, and made of beautifully planed wood, unpainted and unvarnished. Inside, the moosmies in their pretty quiet-coloured garments, busy handing quaint odd-shaped little teapots and white and blue tea-cups, made up a picture altogether charming.

From there we went to Asakusa, where was a fair to be seen. A street thronged with people and with stalls on either side, covered with all kinds of things one could buy for a few cash or cents, gay with colour and kept by eager salesmen—quite a lively scene. At the end was a temple which we were bound for, and my Jinrickie-man was the first to reach the flight of stone steps leading up to it, my friend following at a little distance. I got out and waited, but was surrounded directly by a crowd, who came peering into my face, pointing to my earrings, watch-chain, &c., and laughing softly amongst themselves. Laughing being catching, I followed suit, but soon, waving my hands to signify they must let me out of the charmed circle, got away.

We then inspected the temple, which had nothing noticeable in it, except at the entrance a huge wooden tub, into which the worshippers threw cash, or are expected to do so, through a slit in the centre of the lid. It makes such a noise as it goes in, that it is quite impossible for your left hand not to know what your right hand is doing. Beside the stalls with their thousand-and-one gimcrack articles for sale, there were shows of different sorts, performing dogs, monkeys, and elephants; admission about ten cash; and amongst them some waxwork figures exceedingly well done. Some were dressed *à l'Anglais*, but I am sorry to say, represented not very charming members of society; a girl on a velocipede; another linked arm-in-arm with a man, both pulling different ways, and neither of them able to see too clearly where they were going; a British workman, who having tasted the cup that cheers but *does* inebriate, had cast himself down at the foot of a tree, and, with an imbecile smile on his face, was vainly trying to steer his hand, with a match in it, to the pipe in his mouth, but couldn't do it, and others after the same style. Those dressed in Japanese costume were wonderfully life-like.

The next day we visited the beautiful temples of Sheba, but no words of mine could ever put before you what they are like. Those I saw in Canton will not bear comparison with them in any way. They are magnificent! We passed through splendid gateways, supported by granite columns, with above, marvellous carv-

ings of flowers, animals, and birds, amidst a mingling of colours—emerald green, ultramarine, vermilion, black and gold—perfectly gorgeous. Then across courtways between lines of enormous stone or bronze lanterns, up to the temples, which are also wonderful combinations of bronze, granite, and lacquer, the colouring so brilliant yet so harmonious—and having for a background, the dark green foliage of the cryptomeria. The roofs of fluted tiles are very graceful in form, curving inwards tent-wise from a high point in the centre down to the corners, which project considerably beyond the walls. Every part, every minute portion, is decorated, where, unless your attention was drawn to it, you would never think of looking; and the carving of the granite columns and moulding of the bronze reliefs beautiful in the extreme. I saw there also some of their famous bells, whose mighty voices have a richness of tone not to be surpassed.

There is one infliction to which you must submit before you will be admitted within the sacred precincts of some of the temples, and that is, you *must* take off your boots. Very politely they request you to do so, but that does not at all lessen your anguish of soul when you stoop to contemplate the many buttons to each boot, and think with dismay of the chilly walk before you, over floors some of which are of matting, but some of stone. I was highly amused at the ingenious and superlatively polite way in which this wish of theirs was made known in one case. A neat little

board was stuck up at the side of the steps, with words thereon to this effect:—'The man in attendance will take charge of visitors' boots while they are within.' Their arrangement of shoe is such an easy one to don or doff at pleasure, they cannot sympathise with us. Some are wooden soles resting on little stilts about four inches high, and fastened to the foot by a thick white sandal which goes between the first and second toes, and is held by a button to the sole. Others are mere wooden clogs several inches high.

At Sheba are the tombs of the Tycoons, handsome bronze mausoleums grandly severe in style. The priests, easily to be recognised by their closely-shaven heads, generally acted as our guides. Can you imagine any human being looking anything but repulsive, minus a wig natural or otherwise, with not even a stray hair, nothing but a smooth and shining pate? and as they were generally lean and sallow, you will understand that they were not handsome. What a clear field of study is open to phrenologists amongst the priests in China and Japan!

When we were on our way back from Sheba, skurrying along in our Jinrickishas, we passed an omnibus—yes, even so, an omnibus; and it was a solemn spectacle, so huge and ponderous. The driver had such an exalted position it was difficult to find him, and the occupants must have felt, I should think, as if they had climbed into a premature tomb. I also saw the imperial mail-cart, painted the orthodox red. This is a recent in-

novation, letter-wallahs or runners having been used before.

Our two-legged steeds rattled us through the streets at a tremendous pace, shouting for the pedestrians who were scattered about to make way. It was great fun. Into holes and out again we bumped, shaved past carts and round corners, down wide streets where there was room enough and to spare, along narrow ones where 'all the world and his wife' seemed to have congregated, and so on and on in one breathless race.

On my return to Yokohama one day elapsed, then I was off again with two of my friends to Inoshima, a lovely little spot about seventeen miles distant. We were to return the next day, taking on our way one or two places of interest. It would be an island, but that it has a strip of sand, which is covered at high tide, connecting it with the mainland. It is formed of rocks which rise precipitously from the sea, and is a very network of temples and shrines, hidden amidst dense foliage of every variety. We travelled the greater part of the distance in a waggonette and pair, starting at about eight o'clock in the morning. Our way lay along the Tocaido, or high road of Japan, which runs the whole length of the island. It is broad, and shaded on either side by grand old pines, whose branches, growing in odd fantastic forms, 'lean over and arch the way.' Their lines are broken every now and then by rows of houses, forming a village of one street; and along the ridges of the roofs are to be often seen plants of iris,

whose blue-green leaves contrast charmingly with the dusky brown of the thatched roofs. Out of these houses at the sound of our horses' tread would dance little creatures, most of them clad in naught but Nature's scant attire, shouting after us words which very likely, if we had been able to understand them, we should have found to be not too flattering, their parents following more slowly to gaze after us at a distance. Outside some of the houses were the mothers, busy at household work, carrying their babies conveniently strapped to their backs, which leaves their hands free and the child at liberty to sleep or cry to its heart's content, for out of sight seems to be out of mind. It is all very well for the mother, but very bad for the children, as they run great risk of breaking their necks by their heads rolling back when they are asleep; and whether awake or asleep have their little legs in such a cramped position that it would be no wonder if in after life their understandings should be weak. If not disposed of in this way, they are delivered over to the tender mercies of brothers and sisters scarcely a bit older or bigger than themselves, who carry them in the same way, and toddle about with their burdens oblivious of their cries.

We could not say the road was remarkable for smoothness in any part, but when we came to these hamlets the mud was thicker and the holes were larger; the springs of the vehicles were sorely tried, and so were our poor limbs, but each survived. By the side of the road were to be seen straw trays filled with grain drying

in the sun, and men and women busy winnowing with quaint implements, in shape something like butterflies' wings, made of a framework of bamboo, filled in with paper and attached to tall bamboo sticks. These were flapped to and fro to divide the husk from the grain. Once or twice we stopped at tea-houses, when out came the girls with the usual refreshments; some of them were quite pretty, with rosy lips and cheeks—painted red! and pearly teeth; their hair, which is dark, thick, and coarse, is dressed in a most becoming style. The small sort of chignon is made over paper, and that sometimes covered with bright coloured stuffs, and queer little combs and pins are stuck about in most odd places all over their heads. Their style of dress suits them, and fortunately the women do not seem so anxious to adopt European costumes as the men. They wear loose garments, open at the throat *en cœur*, and folded back to form a plain deep collar, but each farther than the last, so displaying a succession of folds. These garments are confined at the waist by an 'obi,' or sash; and as this portion of their attire is considered the most important, the richer the materials of which it is made the prouder they are.

The original Grecian bend is said to have come from Japan, and certainly it is to be seen there to perfection. I think the clumsy kind of clogs worn instead of shoes partly accounts for it, and the effect is increased by the wide short ends of the obi. One advantage is gained from these high clogs, they keep the

girls' feet and skirts well out of the mud; but on the other hand it is an utter impossibility for them to run swiftly or elegantly in them, nor can they walk with ease or grace, but only shuffle along.

The men wear many varieties of dress, both in quality and quantity; in the villages up country it dwindles down to a mere apology. A long loose garment open at the neck like the women's, and confined at the waist with a narrow band of the same stuff, nether garments fitting tightly to the leg, and his feet shod with the same uncomfortable-looking substitutes for boots—is a man fully dressed. They wear their hair in a very strange and indescribable fashion. A space of about two inches in width, extending from the middle of the forehead to the back of the head, is entirely shorn, the rest of the hair brushed off the face and gathered up behind; then the ends are turned under and firmly bound with paper points (so making a sort of stick) and laid on the bald part.

They are merry people, smiling or laughing at the slightest provocation, a habit which helps the young girls to show off their beautiful teeth; but as the married women are compelled to blacken theirs, it is not equally pleasant to be grinned at by them. They must also shave off or pluck out their eyebrows. As a rule the women are short, so that for the first time in my life I was able to feel tall. They age very rapidly, often looking worn and haggard at thirty. They cannot lay claim to *beauty*, though some have very nice faces, and others are even pretty.

The drive, which was most enjoyable notwithstanding we were well shaken while being taken, came to an end in about three hours, when we reached a little village, the name of which I think was Katassa. There we were compelled to forsake the vehicle, and instead of taking Jinrickishas decided to walk the remaining distance, which was but short.

Having plodded along the sand we reached Inoshima, and climbed up the principal street, which was lined on either side with queer little shops, stalls, and tea-houses, the former filled with marine curiosities, some made into toys, and all temptingly displayed. We stopped at last at a very clean and highly respectable tea-house, and out pattered several girls who kept bowing as they came, and saying 'O-hi-o' over and over many times, which means 'good morning.' These girls look so pleasant, and have such pretty ways, it is impossible not to like them. One of our party, able to speak Japanese, told them we wished to take up our abode there for the night, and they in return signified their welcome by more smiles and more 'O-hi-os.' On the strength of these we were about to enter, when such a look of dismay came over each face, and such a chattering commenced among them, I could not think what was the matter; but our interpreter soon explained that they wanted us to wait until they could get a mat for us to rub our boots on. They thus showed their consideration for our European customs by not asking us instead to take them off, though

even that would have been a reasonable request, for their floors were so spotlessly clean. We then went upstairs, and were shown some rooms; the largest we ordered to be made into two, and in almost less time than it takes me to write it, sliding panels were brought and slipped into grooves in the floor, and the thing was done. These panels were simply frames filled in with thin pieces of wood dovetailed together very cleverly, forming squares a few inches in size, with paper tightly stretched over the whole. These being the walls, doors, and windows, anyone possessed of the bump of curiosity has free scope for satisfying it. On more than one occasion, while I was dressing, a woman quietly slipped back a panel, peeped in, and upon my catching sight of her, nodded in a pleasant and confidential way, and then departed. Another very convenient mode of inspecting the interiors of such rooms is to poke a finger through the paper, and then place one eye to the hole. The action may be so done as to be unobserved by those within, which is an extra advantage, at least to one of the parties concerned. One other characteristic of their rooms is, that the occupants are able to hear their neighbours' voices very distinctly. Just imagine how enjoyable it must be to be favoured with as many as four different conversations at one time—what variety and amusement! It becomes, however, rather more than entertaining if continued till late into the night, especially as you are all the time forced to the conclusion, that your conversation is likewise sure to be public property.

There was, of course, no furniture in our quarters when we were introduced to them; but we knew that a table and something in the shape of chairs were to be had, so asked for them. Mr. D. had brought his 'boy' to act as cook and servant in general, also our chow-chow, and each of us our bed arrangements. These last were spread upon the floor; first a piece of oiled paper (very necessary), then sheets, pillows, blankets, &c., to follow. Oh, what hard couches they proved, every hour in the night they seemed to grow harder and harder! We contrived to obtain one hand-basin, which we had to deposit on the floor, and there everything else had to be put. To have to perform your toilet with no washhand stand, dressing-table, or chair, much less a chest of drawers, is a funny experience. I don't at all mind it for a short time, but it is apt to be tiresome after the novelty has worn off.

After tiffin we sallied out to view the land; but alas! for us, the weather turned sulky, and finally resolved itself into a Scotch mist (in Japan!) making everything limp, dripping, and wretched. We persevered for a long while, but gave it up at last, and went back to the tea-house to while away the evening as well as we could, and wish for better fortune on the morrow. Dinner over, we established ourselves in the verandah, to do the lazy and chat in the fading light. Very soon we could hear the girls begin to put up the shutters down below; but when they came upstairs to our part of the dwelling, we stoutly refused to be thus

shut in, much to their astonishment and partly to their dismay, for they were afraid to have any portion of the house left so exposed. We assured them that we feared not, and would attack any thieves that might come, so they gave in, and allowed us to enjoy the air; we should have been stifled otherwise.

The girls, however, instead of retiring, took up their positions close beside us, for the sole purpose of scanning us o'er and o'er; every portion of our dress, particularly any ornaments we had on, received their special attention, and they chatted and laughed and pointed to their heart's content. I was so astonished and amused at the deliberate way in which they made their observations that I could not help laughing; but they were not in the least discomposed, and perhaps imagined we were flattered by their notice. We soon 'turned in,' for we were tired.

Each bedroom was entirely closed in with mosquito curtains hung from hooks round the walls (if I can call them such), and a little lamp placed in one corner, containing nothing more than a piece of wick floating in some oil, shed a dim religious light over everything. We found that if we had come to bed to sleep it was in vain, for a number of marsh frogs were keeping up such a concert just outside as to effectually exclude us from the land of dreams. Oh, how vigorously they croaked; they really deserved to be hoarse for the rest of their lives. Now and then there would be an exquisite and impressive pause, a ten minutes' interval,

during which we would begin to vainly indulge in the hope that the finale had come, and get delightfully drowsy, when hark! one croak, then silence, then another from quite a different voice, and then the full chorus breaking forth with renewed vigour, an utter disregard of time and harmony amongst them, and an apparent wish on the part of each and all to croak his neighbour down. Oh, those dissipated wretches, how we vowed vengeance on them as we lay tired and helpless. I have not yet recounted all our woes, for later on the rats came out over head to have a dance, scampering about frantically, and the floor was so *lively* that even oiled paper proved no protection, and we found ample room for the study of entomology. It was truly a night to be remembered.

The next day we woke (for we did fall asleep when it was getting light) to find things looking rather doubtful in the weather line; but it eventually turned out beautifully bright, and we were soon on our way back to Yokohama, as we wished to have time to stop at one or two places *en route*. I was so sorry to leave, for the view from our rooms was perfectly lovely, and we had been unable fully to enjoy it the day before. I looked back lingeringly at the pretty little place as my Jinrickie man toiled along the sandy shore, swishing his feet in the waves as they came rippling up fresh and cool.

Our way lay through villages, past fields of paddy, wheat, barley, and maize, through lanes shaded by trees

of every variety, with banks and hedges, the dwelling-places of lovely wild-flowers and ferns, but the mud ankle deep; still on and on, with many rests at tea-houses, where our poor tired but plucky human horses would have a wash, a whiff of smoke, only one, a sip of tea, and then start off again.

In due time we came to Diabutz, the famous bronze image of Buddha, and I must confess to a considerable amount of disappointment when I first caught sight of it some little distance away, for I had pictured to myself such a gigantic figure. It was only when I drew near and had looked at it for a little while that the feeling wholly fled away. Like all great things it was impossible to estimate it at once. It is a wonderful piece of workmanship, the proportions so good, though so great, and the expression of the face very benignant. I will give some of the dimensions. It is 44 ft. high, the face 8½ ft. long, eyes 3½ ft., ears 6 ft., mouth 3 ft., and the circumference of each thumb 3½ ft. These will indicate what a colossal statue it is. I climbed up, and sat on one of the thumbs; it is even large enough for a man to lie down upon. The image is hollow, and on going inside you can see a most interesting collection of names, Smiths, Jones, Browns, and Robinsons, which those illustrious visitors have left as memorials. Formerly there was a temple over it, but that was destroyed by an earthquake. Some priests live near to look after the place, and receive any offerings visitors may chance to bestow.

At Kamakura, which we passed through, are more temples and shrines, reared amidst woods of cryptomeria, and large paved courtways leading up to them. At the town of Odawara, I think it was, we had our tiffin; but in what order in the route these different places came I am quite at a loss to say, my memory in this respect proving treacherous. It was a larger and more important place than the others we had passed through, which were mere villages.

At Kanasawa we had some tea in a tea-house overlooking a lagoon, with a lovely range of dreamy hills in the distance—such a pretty place; and thence journeyed to the Plains of Heaven, where we had a magnificent view. On the right was the sea, on which any number of tiny white sails were gleaming in the golden sunlight; and on the left, laid out as in a map, was a splendid country studded with small lakes or inlets in the distance; and nearer, emerald-tinted fields of paddy, brown huts, orchards, wheat and barley fields, &c., all mingled in one glorious prospect.

It was just the sun's bedtime, and the last soft beams he shed over everything were far more beautiful than his more fervent ones at noonday would have been. The shadows were gliding slowly over the hills, tracing on them with fairy fingers the forms of all the trees, and making a network of foliage on the ground; while everything was still and quiet, as if Mother Nature had bid the world be silent till the mighty monarch had gone to rest. I felt as if I could not look long enough;

but it was getting late, and we had still some distance to go.

Our Jinrickie men had pulled us along bravely, literally wading through mud. They were good strong fellows, with famous muscles, but must have been well tired; and we ladies certainly felt thankful at the prospect of soon being at home, for we had been the victims of many joltings during the nine or ten hours' journey.

Across some of the worst *valleys* in the road are placed planks, which in the course of time get shifted, leaving sufficient space between for the wheel of a Jinrickisha to slip in with a sudden and surprising jerk, bruising one's shoulders against the sides of the vehicle in no very agreeable manner. The mud, too, has a most unlucky habit of suddenly collapsing beneath the wheels, or under the hoofs of your horse should you be riding, the result often being that you find yourself landed on your head in the middle of the road.

Just before we entered Yokohama our men stopped to don their nether garments, which they had dispensed with during the former part of the way, as they would not be allowed to go into the settlement in such *negligé* costume. They then with a final spurt dashed along into the town in a glorious manner. So ended my most enjoyable little trip to Inoshima.

'Yokohama, July 10th.

'I have decided at the eleventh hour *not* to go by the American mail leaving at daylight to-morrow, because there is a report that the steamer is so crowded I shall have to share a cabin with a Japanese woman and child, which, if true, would be by no means pleasant. My friends say it would be a very uncomfortable arrangement, and have most generously and hospitably urged me to stay till the next mail, which will leave in a fortnight's time. I cannot think what you will say, but can only hope it will not cause you any anxiety. Another very strong inducement I have had for staying, is an invitation to join a party of four friends who are going on a trip up country to Myanoshita. It is an excursion I had been told by everyone here I ought to make, but could not very well go alone, and up to the present time had not known anyone who was going. It was, as you can therefore imagine, a most tempting offer, and an opportunity it seemed a great pity to lose, especially when looked at with the Japanese woman and child in the background as an alternative. There are always two sides to a question though, and so in this case, for by this detention I shall have to go hungering for letters still longer than before, and that seemed long enough.

'Since last I wrote, the days have been slipping by unoccupied with anything important to relate. One was spent in another visit to Yeddo, Mrs. S. having kindly invited us on a day when the Mikado's gardens

were open to visitors, as we were anxious to see them; we were obliged to have tickets of admission, but these she had obtained. They are surrounded by five moats, are arranged with great taste, and are very beautiful. One part is given up to a racecourse, for the Mikado's special delectation, and other parts form miniature landscapes, such as the Japanese are so clever in making in their gardens. Cunning little pathways lead you in all directions, down into hollows, over wee bridges, past toy-temples half hidden amongst shrubs, up steep slopes, made easy by stone steps placed with artistic irregularity, and on beneath shady trees to infant waterfalls trickling over little pieces of rockery. So you wander on, guided by these wily, winsome paths, till, speaking from my experience, you become somewhat footsore and weary. The palace of his Imperial Majesty, which stood within these grounds, has been burnt down, but is to be rebuilt shortly.

'On coming out we met Sir Harry Parkes, to whom I was introduced. He seemed greatly interested on hearing of my journey, and said he should much like to have had an opportunity of chatting with me over my experiences. We stayed to dine with Mr. and Mrs. S., and then returned to Yokohama.

'Mr. W. often brings home some friends either to tiffin or dinner; the other day he brought as many as five, which left Mrs. W. and your humble servant in a decided minority, but here such an undue predominance of black coats is of common occurrence, and often to a

greater extent than six to two. Of course, the percentage of ladies is increasing greatly, but I have had amusing accounts given me of what a hard evening's work a ball used to be in years past to the few residing in a European settlement, and how they used to go into the room with their programmes filled up, the gentlemen having taken the precaution to call in the morning of the day to secure them as partners.

'The last few days have brought a delightful change in the weather. It had been so miserably wet, but is now gloriously fine and warm. The thermometer is standing at 84° in the coolest room. The view up here on the "Bluff" is very beautiful, for, from the right of the house we overlook the bay and harbour, and from the left can see Fusiyama, whenever she is not in so modest a mood as to wrap herself in clouds. It is also delightfully cool and breezy in contrast with Yokohama proper, which lies down below the hills, for whenever there is such a thing as a breeze we are sure to have it.

'Numbers of the native women and girls are employed in the exhausting labour of tea-firing, and in the evening they come trooping along the streets, making such a clatter with their clumsy clogs, laughing, chattering, and evidently cracking jokes, and altogether behaving like children just escaped from school. I was told that it is terribly trying work, some of the less strong ones fainting from the intense heat.

'I forget whether I told you of the chit books, which are quite an institution in the East. When

wishing to send a chit (note) or parcel to anyone, you write the name and address in the book. The boy delivers both to your friend, who signs the book, and if wishing to do so, writes a message back. They are therefore useful as guarantees that your chits have fallen into the right hands, and are convenient when employing native servants.

'The Japanese do not seem to make such good domestics as the Chinese from what I can see and hear. With the exception of nurses, or a woman to wait upon the lady of the house, men only are employed, as in China. My friend Mrs. S., of Yeddo, had a dear old creature who attended upon her especially; she was about as ugly as she well could be, and looked as old as Methuselah, but was a most faithful servant. She had only one tooth left in her head, and that black; at all events, that was all that could be seen when she opened her mouth wide to laugh or smile, which she did continually; and her brown and wrinkled face was made still more hideous by the dozen or so of hairs that she possessed being tightly drawn away to the back of her head, and there screwed out of sight as much as possible into a tiny knot. But she was fully as nice as she was ugly, which is saying a great deal. Mr. and Mrs. W. have their cook, the two house boys, and head nurse or "armar," all Chinese, and the rest of the servants Japanese.

'It would be absurd to give you a detailed account of each day's doings while I am here, for they consist only of

such ordinary occupations, as driving, walking, calling, croquet, kettledrums, dinners, &c., but in my next letter I hope to tell you of our trip to Myanoshita, on which we start, if all be well, next Thursday. Till then, farewell.'

'Myanoshita, July 14th.

'I am obliged to set to work early to get this epistle ready, so that it may be forwarded to Yokohama in good time for the mail. I will begin by telling you about ourselves, and then of our surroundings and doings. First of all, we are not seven, but six. Mr. and Mrs. B., their little boy, Mr. W. and Mr. D., and "yours most obediently." Then we have an interpreter, Mr. B.'s China "boy," who cooks for us, &c., and the Chinese armar or nurse. So much for our numbers; now for *where* we are-and *how* we came; the last shall come first.

'We started at 6 A.M. yesterday (Thursday) from the hotel (and please note that I had to get there, which means a still earlier start for me) in a lumbering vehicle drawn by four horses, something like one of Cobb's Australian coaches, possessing no particular springs to speak of, and seats stuffed with one feather between them all. We were made painfully aware of the fact that the road was not good, but the country through which we passed was very pretty, and we were a merry party, so what cared we. We kept Fusiyama in sight nearly all the way, while nearer at hand lay well-cultivated fields with quaint figures of men and women

working in them, picturesque little houses, flourishing orchards and trees of every variety, the road itself guarded by grand old pines, and banks bright with blooming flowers. We met many pedestrians and travellers in Jinrickishas, some got up in the most ludicrous mixture of European and native costumes. Just now the people are in a sort of transition state, adopting gradually many Western ideas and ways, and unfortunately our style of dress amongst other things. It would be bad enough if they went in for the entire change at once, but only some of them do that, while others make spectacles of themselves by using but a portion, just whatever strikes their fancy most; so with one it will be a chimney-pot hat or wide-awake, with others a pair of boots, gloves, or umbrella, making a *tout ensemble* which needs to be seen to be appreciated. When they do sport the complete European costume, one is able to see how an unbecoming style can be made still more unbecoming. How or why it is I cannot tell, but certainly they do look most remarkable figures when so attired. On all state occasions they struggle into evening dress —suits of orthodox black, swallowtails, white chokers, with dreadful looking hats to surmount all.

'We were ferried across one stream, carriage and all, in a very broad flat boat, the men not using oars, but long bamboo poles. The drive lasted from 6 A.M. till 12.30, when we stopped and had tiffin in true Japanese fashion on the floor, there being no table or chairs in the place. We had brought with us our own

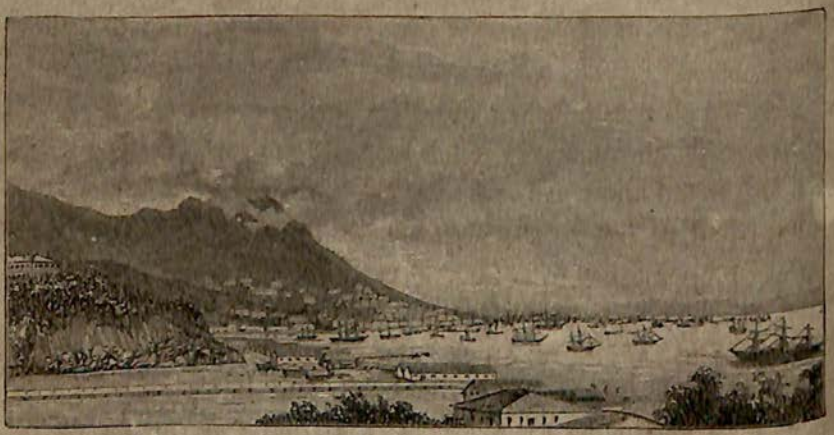
chow-chow, even to the small etceteras of salt and pepper, all the necessary table silver, linen, glass, and crockery, not to mention bedding, &c.; so with servants to wait on us we were independent of everything but a roof to cover us. After tiffin we rested for a couple of hours because of the heat, and then, being compelled to forsake our vehicle, we had recourse to the mountain "kangos" or chairs. What blissful ignorance we were then in, as to what they were! It is a kind of hammock-seat of bamboo, with a little roof of the same; and a pole which runs along the top is the means by which the chair is supported on the shoulders of the two men who carry you. To get into it you must cross your legs, Turkish fashion, double them under you, and sit in a sloping position, otherwise you cannot get your head in under the low roof; and, for some mysterious reason best known to themselves, the men carry you in the direction a crab walks, which after a time is apt to give you an indescribable feeling of having been made permanently crooked in your ways. The rate of progress is also very slow, about two and a half miles an hour, as every two or three minutes they stop to change shoulders, putting a slight bamboo stick which they carry in their hands under the pole while they do so.

'They could not boast of a superfluity of clothing, for it was next to none at all, but some were beautifully tattooed, all had a wonderful development of calves, and most of them were decidedly *un*handsome. They are

trained to their work, for unless they stepped well together it would be intolerable for the traveller. We had some extra ones to relieve those who showed signs of fatigue.

'We soon began gradually to ascend, and after four hours' travelling through exquisite scenery, reached a height of about 2,000 feet, and our destination. The last part of the journey had been especially delightful, for the great heat of the day was past, and the evening shadows lay upon the land. Our way led along fertile valleys and sloping hill-sides, through charming little villages, only needing a white church with gilt cupola to make one think, from a distance, they were Swiss; past huge granite arches which always mark the entrances to sacred grounds, by the neatest little cemeteries possible, and over the most fragile little bridges crossing bubbling streams, and through narrow lanes whose hedges were bright with deutzias, hydrangeas, honeysuckles, roses, liliums, and other wild flowers, the whole framed in by mountains, some of which were tinged with the sun's fading glory, while others lay cast in gloomy shadow.

'We took up our abode at a tea-house at the extremity of the village. We hoped to have found rooms at a larger one on the other side of the street, but that was full, and those we have are clean and comfortable, and kept by very civil people. They came forward when we got out of our kangos to take off our boots for us, but we ladies did not quite see the force of that arrangement, so were allowed to go in and upstairs,



HONG-KONG.

A CHINESE BOAT.

having well rubbed them. I believe the gentlemen did not object.

'We soon established ourselves and our traps, and furnished our rooms as much as the resources of the house would allow. There was one table, but as it was not equal in size to the occasion, we dismissed it and rigged up another by means of two tubs and a shutter. Of those luxuries chairs we were able actually to count five! Our candles we stuck into empty wine bottles; quite stylish, was it not? I had great fun in trying to obtain a wash-hand basin. First by clapping my hands (the usual way of summoning the domestics in this country), I brought our interpreter to see what was wanted. I told him, and with an "hey" in reply he departed. I waited, but he did not return, and I grew desperate, so again clapping, a moosmee made her appearance, followed shortly by the interpreter, looking sheepish. I reiterated my request, but could see by his face that he was quite in a fog as to what I wanted. I then went through the pantomime of washing my hands, in the hope that he might thereby be enlightened, and appeared successful, for, turning to the moosmee, he said something to which she answered the inevitable "hey," and trotted off, returning with a basin a long time after, when I had given it up in despair. Happening later to leave my room for a little while, I found to my dismay on my return the precious thing gone. Once more the little play was acted, and ever after I was left in undisturbed possession of that which I had so indefatigably sought for.

'This long epistle must come to an end, and I will give you a further description of our doings in my next.'

'Myanoshita, July 15th.

'Having given you some sort of description of our apartments, I must now say something about the place itself. First of all, it can boast of hot mineral springs of iron, which are considerably patronised both by the natives and Europeans for certain diseases, and the tea-houses are built over the springs for the more convenient use of visitors. The baths are nicely arranged, and look very tempting. They are wooden tubs sunk into the floor, having at the bottom, boards with spaces between, up which the water keeps bubbling clear and warm, and overflowing the wooden flooring. Should you wish to make it cooler, a bamboo stick is at hand to place up against a pipe in one corner of the room, and so conduct the cold water, which is otherwise flowing in another direction, into the bath.

'The Japs have a mania for taking them very hot, and I suppose, having been used to them since they were babies, and their fathers before them, can go into water which would scald a European, and as a natural consequence come out looking like boiled lobsters. They seem also to prefer company to solitude at those times; so it is not always easy to instil into their minds our differences of opinion on that matter.

'Both the village and the surrounding scenery are decidedly Swiss-like. A narrow valley, with a little

foaming torrent running through it, making a pleasant sound as it rushes along over its stony bed, and mountains on either side thickly wooded to their summits with dark sombre-looking firs, the light and feathery bamboo, many-tinted maples, and numerous other kinds of trees. There was formerly a law in Japan that no tree must be cut down without another being planted in its place.

'I have forgotten to mention that the floors of the rooms are covered with straw mats, placed several one above another, which give a soft springy feeling beneath the feet, most delightful. They are made of a uniform size, I forget what, and the rooms built to suit the mats—not *vice versâ*, as with us—bound with stuff differing in pattern according to the rank of the resident, and stretched tightly down. They look spotlessly clean. In cold weather a metal brazier is sunk into the floor, in which charcoal is burnt, and round which the people crouch for warmth, doing very little else, so far as I can see, but smoking, chattering, and playing at a game called "go." Even the shopkeepers openly beguile the time between the visits of customers with these occupations.

'Last night I slept but very little, on account of the many lively visitors, mosquitos and others, who uninvited shared my room with me, and at six I was up and off again in a kango, Mr. W. and Mr. D. walking, to another village about three miles further on.

'On our way we passed a stream of boiling water

issuing from the rocks, and rushing to join a cold stream which ran along the bottom of the gorge. The rocks over which it passed were coloured a reddish yellow, showing how strongly the water was impregnated with iron.

'It was a most exquisite little excursion, through quite indescribable loveliness, as we crept along the sides of the hills on narrow and steep pathways leading sometimes through woods which were at that early hour orchestras for numberless singing birds, and out again into clear spaces, from each of which were beautiful views so enticing we were forced to linger awhile. At last we ceased to ascend, and reached a valley with Fusiyama *en face* in the distance.

'The bridges crossing the rivers and streams are very primitive, just piles of stones placed at different distances in the water, and held firmly together by a sort of cage of bamboo; then pieces of wood are laid lengthways and across, and stone and earth fill in the crevices. They look so slender and insecure, but are charmingly picturesque.

'We returned at ten o'clock, laden with flowers and rapturous in our praises of the neighbourhood. While I am writing the rest of the company have retired *to think*; but as I do not require to do that sort of thinking, I am deputed to have a good cup of English tea ready by five o'clock. After that we start out on another excursion, then home to dinner and bed.

'July 16th, Sunday. To-day we are making tho-

roughly a day of rest, while the rain is very busy cooling the air and laying the dust ready for us to-morrow. We began by indulging in a longer sleep this morning, instead of getting up at the unearthly hours we have lately. Yesterday was a very fatiguing one, fully entitling us to do the lazy now.

'Monday. We meant to be up and off at 4.30 A.M., but woke to find it pouring with rain, so were compelled to postpone our start for awhile. Blue sky soon appeared, and then the sun, and by 6.30 we had again taken to our kangos, and departed for Haconi Lake. We reached it at 11 o'clock, having travelled for a considerable distance along the Tocaido road. We met many pedestrians and some packhorses, and bidding the former "good morning," received in return, bows, smiles, and O-hi-os *ad infinitum*. The horses wore most shaggy and disreputable coats, and were altogether of a very lean and miserable appearance. Their shoes were made of straw instead of iron, and tied on with the same over the hoof.

'At intervals we stopped to let the men rest, wash, eat, drink, and smoke, all of which they accomplished in about five minutes, while girls offered us the inevitable cup of tea, for which emergency we had learnt what "no thank you" is in Japanese, for one cannot be sipping that beverage at every hour of the day, refreshing though it be. Then with oft-repeated saianaras we were off again.

'On entering Haconi village our cavalcade was soon espied, and up came fleet runners from the hotels to

solicit our patronage. Little cared we where we went, so adopted the principle of "first come," &c. We found a resting-place at a large house, and were shown into a room on the ground-floor overlooking the lake. One of our party sallied forth to try and get some fish and fruit, and after much marching up and down the village succeeded.

'Tiffin over, we started in a boat to go up the lake, our kangos and men going in another, but the heat was so great it is a wonder there was any portion of us left to tell the tale; the sun seemed to have concentrated all his beams upon *us*.

'Our interpreter afforded us immense amusement then, as indeed he does at all times. He is a most willing fellow, but not overburdened with brains, and has a very curious habit of just answering "yes" to everything you say to him. The result is a continual game of cross questions and crooked answers. We asked him how deep the lake was, and with a face radiant with joy at being able to answer so satisfactorily, replied, "three hundred years deep." After that we abandoned the idea of fathoming its depths, or those of the boy's mind either, and would not hazard any more queries, being fearful of the strain upon our risible faculties. It is about 3,000 or 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, and embedded amongst mountains, Fusi being conspicuous there as elsewhere.

'Directly we were on the lake we detected a very strong smell of sulphur, by no means enjoyable. By

some persons the lake is thought to be the crater of an extinct volcano. On landing, we again took to our kangos, and proceeded over the pass of Haconi, ascending higher and higher till we came to a kind of waste howling wilderness, so made by the eruption of a volcano. The trees were blanched and dead, with bare white limbs stretched out as if imploring pity, while the ground was seamed and scarred by the footsteps of the scorching lava—a perfect scene of desolation. Close at hand were boiling sulphur springs, casting forth fiery jets of steam, and making sulphureous deposits all around, while at their mouths the nasty stuff was bubbling and seething like a living thing in torments. Added to this, the air was impregnated with a delightful odour of rotten eggs, till we, feeling that dire consequences might follow a longer stay, hastened away, not sorry to get off the soft and decidedly warm ground.

'From another spot near by we had the very best possible view of Fusi: which was looking beautiful, wrapped in its snowy mantle, and a throne of feathery cloud around its base. Our men carried us very skilfully up and down the narrow and steep pathways, never slipping, but taking each step carefully and surely. We came upon quantities of wild raspberries; such delicious ones. We feasted right royally, and felt considerably refreshed. It was nice to have something else than sulphur down our throats. They were a bright orange instead of red. We found some afterwards of

the orthodox colour, but they were not nearly so good. When my kango-men found I liked them, they deposited me on the ground and went clambering up the hill side after them, coming back with scratched hands and arms laden to fill my lap, laughing goodnaturedly when I thanked them. We were quite tired out when we reached home, and soon after dinner went to bed.

'Since the first night, I have had an improvised bed raised from the floor, the latter being far too lively to allow me any rest. It consisted of our dining-table, which, as I told you, is a shutter supported on two tubs, but as was predicted by my friends and was to be expected, I and my bed collapsed in the night; for being balanced to a nicety, unless treated with consummate skill, which one is scarcely equal to when asleep, "down comes baby, cradle and all." After that experience I had the tubs replaced by four chairs, and slept tranquilly, except for the consciousness that I was resting on no couch of down!

'Obeying the injunction "when you go to Rome," &c., I have been shampooed. It is a great custom here, and some of those who follow the profession are sure to be found ready to attend upon travellers. It is the special prerogative, by royal decree, of blind people to adopt this as their means of living, and they have numerous privileges granted them in addition: amongst others, they are generally money-lenders at extravagant rates of interest, and can enforce prompt payment. Many years ago, a son of the then reigning Mikado was blind,

which led his father to extend these privileges to all persons similarly afflicted. I did not have a blind person, though a most dreadful-looking old man, with but one eye, much wished me to engage him. I stoutly refused to have anyone but the old woman whom I had previously seen and engaged, and she was hideous enough for a nightmare. It is a funny process. You are well pummelled, pulled and pinched all over, elongated and kneaded, and the bones in your fingers and toes cracked. Some persons say it has a most soothing effect, I can only say that whereas before she came I was almost asleep, when she went away I was as wide awake as possible. The women clean the floors in a droll away; they bend down, cloth in hand, till they can reach the ground, and then propel themselves along on all fours, pushing the cloth before them.

'There was a very slight shock of earthquake last Sunday, and is the first that has occurred since I have been here. It is a long interval of rest for this somewhat turbulent island, where earthquakes are not very rare events, and are at times rather severe.

'The passport I had to obtain before starting for a trip up country I have not once had to show, but it is a most important-looking document, and ought to work wonders in any emergency. Adieu for the present.'

'Yokohama, July 24th.

'I am told there will be a mail leaving to-morrow morning which will reach England before the American

one by which I am going, so I shall write a hasty scrap to you by it. I have been very busy all the morning packing &c., as I go on board late to-night. There are always many things to be done at the last. I am very down-hearted at leaving, for my five weeks' visit has been so delightful, and friends have been more than good to me. It would be impossible to tell half their deeds of kindness, for hospitality has been only a portion; in every way they could have they contributed to my enjoyment and comfort. Last evening, two of my fellow-passengers to be, came to dinner, an American lady and gentleman. I have a letter of introduction to the captain, who I am told is very pleasant. I am sending home from here a few little curios I have bought, and a few more personal belongings with which I can dispense. Since last I wrote, not much has occurred for me to tell you about. I returned from Myanoshita on Tuesday with Mr. W. and Mr. D., the journey taking us from six o'clock in the morning till about seven in the evening. It was very enjoyable, made up of experiences such as I have already described to you.

'The other evening I *almost* saw the Mikado, who arrived at Yokohama per steamer from Kiyoto. He had been expected early in the morning, consequently numbers flocked in the elegant array of swallowtails, white ties, and chimney-pot hats to bid him welcome, reminding one forcibly of a tribe of monkeys. With a patience and perseverance worthy of—oh! I must not

say a better cause—they remained till darkness came on, but in vain, for not till 9.30 P.M. did he come into harbour, by which time most of the crowd had dispersed disappointed. The ships, however, gave royal salutes and illuminated their masts and rigging, and fireworks were let off, quite a brilliant display. We were going down to the town to try and get a glimpse of his Imperial Majesty, but reports were circulated that he would not leave the steamer that night, and on the strength of these we put off going. They proved false, for he did land and proceeded to Yeddo early the next morning.

'It is very very hot, and my hand so shaky it almost refuses to hold the pen. Time seems to be flying faster than usual, and I am in a *sombre* state of mind at the thought that I am leaving this delightful East; Singapore with its *dolce far niente* style of life; China with its curious inhabitants and quaint customs; and now this beautiful island of Niphon, with its still more interesting people and lovely scenery. Adieu. My next letter will be written going across the ocean.'

'S.S. "Great Republic," July 27th.

'On Monday night, just four days ago, I took up my abode again upon the sea. It was said we should start at daylight, but we did not really get under way until ten o'clock in the morning. It was a lovely starlight evening, warm and still, and we, my friends and I, glided smoothly over the water in the house-boat

towards the great black thing lying before us in the distance. Directly we got on board they took me on a tour of inspection over the ship, that I might not feel so strange in my new quarters; and then, as it was late, were compelled to depart, leaving me forlorn and dreary. It is certainly a melancholy experience to be thus starting on a lonely voyage, especially at night, when one is apt to take a more gloomy view of life and things in general; the disadvantages of the singular number are sure to be felt, and a disconsolate feeling take possession of one. The noise kept up by arrivals till 2 A.M. prevented any such thing as sleep, and after that I was perpetually waking up to ascertain if we had started.

'I am luxuriating in a cabin to myself, which also offers more extensive accommodation than such places usually do. The lower berth is of glorious dimensions, and the upper one makes a convenient resting place for a heterogeneous collection of articles. Underneath is ample space for my three boxes, so that I am supremely indifferent to baggage days once a week. There is also a settee which makes a delightful lounge, and beneath, two lockers.

'We number thirty-three passengers, who comprise many nationalities—Russian, Spanish, French, German, English, Irish, and Scotch. Amongst them are a missionary and his wife (Americans) who are going home on sick leave, after living eight years in Siam, labouring among the Laos, where they and one other family were the only Europeans—a most solitary and out-of-

the-world life. They have three young children with them, all very delicate, such wild fawn-like creatures, frightened if spoken to, and full of astonishment at all they see.

'The captain and his wife are exceedingly kind. The steamer is a fine wooden vessel of 3,881 tons, has paddle-wheels and a hurricane deck, and can accommodate 132 saloon passengers. The cabins, which run round the saloon, have a passage way between them and the bulwarks, a pleasant arrangement, as the ports, which can be almost called small windows, have seldom to be closed. Then there is a social hall, which makes a snug refuge from the cold damp evenings, and is furnished with easy-chairs, &c. The first day out we lost sight of land, and shall now have only sea and sky to contemplate for four weeks; and if fire were to break out, woe betide us, for in mid ocean, with scarcely the ghost of a chance of sighting a sail, our fate would be as good as sealed. Every precaution is taken to prevent such a catastrophe, and fire drill practised from time to time. The weather has been glorious so far. The standard American dishes of pork and peas, pumpkin pies and mush, grace the table at meals, with crackers, cakes, and bread of every kind—hot, cold, new and stale. We have China boys to wait upon us.

'August 3rd. I am a martyr to sleepless nights on this voyage, lying awake for hours a victim to violent fits of home-sickness, and feelings of desperation at the thought that I have to wait for my letters till I reach

"Frisco." "When daylight doth appear" I drop off to sleep, only to be afflicted by the most wretched dreams.

'The noise of pitching quoits goes on unceasingly, as that game is an unfailing source of amusement, we ladies even occasionally killing time in that manner. Some of us have been forward to inspect the galley, pantry, bakehouse, storeroom, &c., also the quarters for the live stock, failing only to see the "porks," as a gentleman said whose knowledge of English was limited.

'There is now a very appreciable difference in the temperature, compelling us to don warmer garments; and rain-squalls have been frequent.

'We gain a day during this voyage, and I hear it is to be a *Friday*. Surely some dire catastrophe ought to overwhelm us!

'Last night I was honoured by a visit from a rat, who announced himself by jumping down from the upper berth upon my head, and thence making swift excursion to my feet. For about an hour he careered about the cabin, amusing me much by his funny antics, and then, as he showed unmistakable signs of wishing to find an exit, I rose and politely showed him the door. He departed with a most graceful whisk of his long tail. I had been wondering when I should be favoured with a call, and lying awake as I had been for many hours, found him quite interesting. If the rat had been a cockroach I should have been out of the cabin

in a second, determined not to return till the enemy was ousted.

'I am busy trying to look up my future journey across the continent, but find it somewhat perplexing, as there are several routes to choose from; one is also furnished, "free, gratis, for nothing," with an overwhelming number of maps and guides issued by the railway companies, and each offering such "very superior advantages."

'I am more troubled with mildew settling on my goods and chattels on this sea trip than on any other, my books, boots, gloves, leather straps, &c., getting to look quite blue.

'August 11th. It is raining this morning, and very cold, so all the world, his wife and children, are down in the saloon, a state of affairs not entirely conducive to peace and comfort. The monotony of the voyage can only be equalled by the speed at which we go—indeed that word is almost a mockery. There were some whales in the wake of the ship the other day, but I missed that, the *one* little piece of excitement which has fallen to our share, as I was down in the saloon at the time. My yearning for home-tidings threatens to become unmanageable, such a forlorn feeling has taken possession of me.

'Sunday, 14th. Cold damp weather, unpleasant to stay on deck, and very shivering anywhere. We are having our first toss, and the fiddles have made their

appearance; hitherto it has been hard to realise we were at sea.

'Tuesday, 16th. It is a month since we started, and all is excitement, for our voyage is nearly at an end. We have sighted three ships to-day, the only sails we have seen since we left Yokohama. Farewell till I reach "Frisco."'

'The Occidental Hotel, San Francisco, August 19th.

'Landed at last. We came into port yesterday at noon. On getting up we found a dense damp fog enveloping everything. This gave way later to the power of the sun, and we had the first glimpse of land about nine o'clock. We had a tedious run through the Golden Gate up to the quay, for in consequence of the fog our approach was not so quickly seen, and the health officer some time in boarding us. Then all was bustle and confusion. Touters for the hotels and agents for the railways came crowding into the saloon, shouting loudly with nasal twang, "Palace," "Grand," "Occidental," &c., and the next hour was occupied in getting the luggage taken off and passed the customs, a slow and annoying process. I went through the fiery ordeal unscathed, having no dutyable goods, nor did my luggage amount to, much less exceed, the two hundred and fifty pounds, allowed to passengers from Japan.

'The hotel is very comfortable and very moderate in its charges, three dollars per diem inclusive of meals. But not all things are so cheap, as my laundryman, a Chinese,

asks me $3 a dozen for large things and $1½ for small; and the gentlemen find that the *moderate* charge of fifty cents is made for a pint bottle of ale or porter. My room is on the first floor. Some of my fellow-passengers are staying here, so I am not friendless.

'Now for my opinion of the place, as far as I can form one in so short a space of time. I cannot say it is *pro*, but *con*. It is very sandy, consequently very dusty, and just now there is a cold wind which succeeds in whirling this same fine sand into your eyes and ears; also a baking sun, with the result that if you walk on the shady side of the street you need a fur jacket, if on the sunny, none at all. Outside the city are fields of sand, with, in some places where it has drifted, walls of it several feet high, a dreary and desolate landscape. The leaves of the trees even are thickly coated with it, so that there is scarcely an emerald tint to gladden the eyes, but all things look brown, dusty, and unlovely.

'The roads are shockingly bad, some of the oldest laid down with planks of wood, which are left to wear away into dreadful holes, to the unlucky traveller's entire discomfort. Many of the footpaths are paved in the same way, in the roughest manner. There are fine large buildings in the heart of the city, and wide and busy streets; but most of the houses are built of wood, and look unsubstantial and uncomfortable. There are long rows of these tall narrow residences, possessed of dizzy-looking flights of steps, and absurdly numbered, as high

as 1,700 and 1,800. I am told they are run up in a few days, and inhabited in a few more.

'There are immense shops, or "stores" as they are called, where you may purchase every necessary and even luxury to any extent.

'The San Franciscan carriages are fragile-looking, have very large skeleton wheels, and when drawn by a pair of Californian horses look exceedingly well. One of the favourite resorts is Cliff House, and every visitor is expected to drive there to view the famous sea-lions, which, protected by law, are safe from the attacks of man. There these great ungainly creatures lie sunning themselves, and uttering their hoarse bark from time to time. The road thither passes through Lincoln Park, which gives promise of being in a few years very pretty, but is at present in the days of its youth. There were many young blue gums thriving well.

'We came in for the Annual Industrial Exhibition, where the show of fruit, corn, vegetables, and minerals revealed the splendid natural resources of the country. The mechanical genius of the people could be seen by the exhibits of machinery, especially the agricultural inventions for saving labour. The mania for advertising is much greater here even than at home.

'I shall not be sorry to leave this city of the West, for I have not fallen in love with it, though perhaps a longer stay might make me change my mind, for residents speak in glowing terms of the climate: and every day sees changes and improvements in the place itself,

which is already a marvel for its age. I intend to leave on Monday, if all be well, for the Yosemite Valley, as a lady and gentleman, fellow-passengers, will start then, and have kindly consented to let me join them. Thus my great wish to see that and the Mariposa Grove of big trees is to be realised.

'I have still many arrangements to make; the through-ticket I bought in Yokohama to get exchanged for two others, one for the trans-continental journey, and the other for the sea-trip home. Before doing this, however, I am obliged to decide at which places I wish to stop *en route*, as the ticket must be marked for them, and also by which line of steamers I will cross "the pond." For this I shall be compelled to employ a passenger-agent. Then money matters must also have attention. I have to cash what I think will be sufficient to last me till I reach New York; and not only that, but try to estimate what proportion of it must be in Mexican gold to meet my expenses while yet in California, and what in "greenbacks." This I shall not find easy, being unused to such calculations. I have also to arrange my baggage, so as to forward one portmanteau to New York, there to await my arrival, send another on to Omaha, which is about half way, and take the third and smallest with me into the valley.

'My longing for letters, thanks to you and friends, has been well satisfied; I have had glorious budgets. And now, as it is past twelve, and I was up at six, and have been on my feet incessantly, I think I will

go to bed, but the spirit moving me to write, I could but obey.'

'Yosemite Valley, August 27th.

'We have been nearly a week amidst this magnificent scenery, and my conscience has been pricking me that I have not kept up my usual correspondence with you, so now I must go back to the day we left "Frisco," and tell you what we have been doing. We left the hotel at 3.30 P.M. and took the ferry to Oakland in time to catch the train; having first gone through lengthy and fussy arrangements with showing our tickets and having our baggage weighed and checked. Still it was a relief to think that when that was done we need give no further thought to it till we reached the places whither the packages were sent, but only hold fast to our checks. A quarter of an hour in the ferry and we then got into the train, which was waiting, and travelled on till we reached Lathrop. There fifteen minutes were allowed for getting supper, which was quickly and nicely served. In what seemed no time some one shouted, "All aboard," and away we had to scamper to catch the train, as nearly as possible losing it notwithstanding. We then went on till 10.45 P.M., reaching Merced, our destination, tired out.

'At 4.30 the next morning we were up again, and had started at six o'clock by stage for Clarke's ranch. No tongue can tell what that day's journey was like. The coach held nine of us inside, in rows of three, with, fortunately, as we found afterwards, not an inch to spare,

and there was room for two beside the driver, who was a very respectable coloured gentleman of well-tried skill as a whip. There was a roof to the vehicle, which proved useful for two or three hours in the middle of the day, but as the sides were entirely open, the sun had his own way the rest of the time, glaring in upon us with fearful intensity. As for the dust—what can I say about that? We kept on swallowing it through thick gauze veils till we were all hoarse as ravens, and ground it savagely between our teeth. We were clad in garments of it from head to foot, eyes and ears were choked; while those of us who were juveniles when we started, looked grey-headed when we arrived. Then the road, could I by any possibility describe it? Nay verily, it was quite too awful; but when I tell you that even the gentlemen had difficulty to keep themselves from being jerked out of the coach, you can credit that our movements much resembled those of parched peas in a frying-pan, and that when we arrived we felt as if we should have to gather up the bags-full of bones that remained. Fortunately the coach was built to resist bad treatment, otherwise I am sure it could never have survived the severe strain put upon it.

'We were longer than usual on the journey, so found ourselves benighted with a considerable distance yet to go. The road at first lay along extensive plains and on towards a range of low hills in the distance—a very uninteresting landscape, especially when seen while being baked and choked; but having reached these we began

to gradually ascend, the scenery getting prettier every hour. We were anticipating a lovely view when we should descend into the valley, but darkness came down and extinguished our expectations, and it became very chilly. Added to this the road was not exactly the sort one would choose for night travelling, being a rapid and steep descent with very sharp turns. To bring a team of six horses down needed a good driver, especially as there was not a glimmer from the moon, and one of our three lamps would not keep alight. At last, with a final crack of the whip and a cheery word to the horses, we drew up at Clarke's ranch, and I never felt more glad to be at my destination, for I was utterly weary with the fifteen hours' jumble and tumble.

'We received a hearty welcome, and found that a party of men had decided on coming out to look for us as we were so late. In the parlour there was a glorious wood fire "flinging its flames up wide and high"—a delightful vision. We were so cramped and stiff we had to go hopping about, like fowls just out of a coop, before we could get free use of our limbs, and each had to stand on the threshold and be well buffeted with a large clothes brush that we might leave as much as possible of the dust behind us.

'It was a primitive place, this "Big Tree Station," divided into two or three buildings some little distance from each other, all of wood, and with no upstairs rooms. With attendant outhouses and the cleared ground attached to it, it made quite a little settlement.

We had to cross over from the parlour, dining-room, kitchens, &c., which were in one building, to our sleeping apartments in another; mere slips of rooms amidst a long row of the same. We were at a height of about 4,000 feet, so found the mornings and evenings cold, I suppose I ought to say *fresh*. Supper over, we were off to bed, and up again the next day, and on our way to Mariposa Grove, by nine o'clock. We had arranged among ourselves a later start as we were so tired, but in the morning received an intimation that if we wished to go at all we must "hurry up" and join another party, as the one guide must suffice for all.

'My lady friend was too tired with the previous day's exertions to enlist upon another expedition, hence I was the only damsel of the party, which numbered eight including the guide, who was mounted upon a mule, the rest being on horses. The trail was not steep or difficult, but led through pine forests and along the mountain sides. The silence was intense, even oppressive, so that we were glad to make our voices echo amongst the hills again and again. There was scarcely a sign of animal life, two birds and a few jaunty squirrels being all we saw. The air was heavy with the scent of cones, and from many of the trunks hung festoons of moss, while round about their feet the undergrowth was luxuriantly thick. The utter loneliness and solemn stillness of this dense Californian forest, where in many parts the sun's rays can never penetrate, could not fail to impress one with feelings of awe which became in-

tensified when at about twelve o'clock we came in sight of the Grove itself. It was grand, indeed, to see those mighty monarchs of the forest, standing in majestic splendour just as they had stood in ages past, through storm, through sunshine, defying alike the ravages of the elements and time, and stretching their proud heads upwards as if they fain would enter at Heaven's gate.

'Many of them have been named. There is the Diamond group, four in number; the Two Brothers, the Forest Queen, Anna and Mary, Lesseps, Felicité, the Three Graces, and the Faithful Couple, which is really one tree branching out about twenty feet from its base into two separate trees. Another, the Andrew Johnson, which has fallen since the discovery of the grove, and one more lying prostrate, by name the Fallen Monarch. Others are called after some of the American States—Brooklyn, Illinois, Ohio, &c.; and last in this list, because largest, comes the famous Grizzly Giant, which is thirty-three feet in diameter, a wonderfully noble fellow as far as girth is concerned, but which has suffered the loss of its head at some time or other.

'A ladder is placed against the trunk of the Andrew Johnson up which we climbed, and then walking along to the base and looking down, were able to realise better the immense circumference. We rode through the trunk of the Fallen Monarch, being able to sit upright in the saddle while doing so. The bark is very beautiful, of a light brown on the outside, and inside as

smooth and soft as velvet. Standing at the foot of any of them and looking up, one can only see the lower branches, and strive in vain to catch a glimpse of the topmost bough. How serene, how grandly beautiful they are; what silent lessons they can teach us if only we will come to them with open hearts to learn! One of the party, a German gentleman, made a capital sketch of the Grizzly Giant, then we sat down and had our tiffin. After refreshing our inner man, we remounted our steeds and turned our faces homeward. As we were leaving, the guide asked us to name one of the trees, promising to have it painted on a board and nailed on the trunk in the same way as the others. One of the gentlemen turned to me directly and said, "As you are the only lady of the party you must be the chooser, and it is an opportunity for you to make yourself famous." I answered, "No, I will leave that to the 'Lords of Creation.'" They exclaimed, "Let that be the name, 'The Lord of Creation,'" and the matter was settled; though I much doubt if the name has ever been affixed.

'When about half-way home four of our horses following one another stepped upon a nest of hornets, or yellow-jackets, as they are called. The occupants, enraged at the intrusion, flew up and stung the animals; great was the disturbance, for the poor things, terrified and hurt, sprang forward with wild leaps, bucked, kicked, danced, and snorted like mad creatures. We had a lively time of it for a few minutes, while we tried to

beat off the enemies and quiet the horses. We shouted advice to the rest of our party to make a détour, and so avoid a like catastrophe, and then marking the spot, the guide determined to return the next day and make short work of the troublesome customers. Some people who pursued the same track on the morrow shot a rattlesnake, a large one with ten rattles. We got back at 5.30 P.M., I for one rather more than tired.

'The following day I was up again at 4.30 A.M., and off by stage for the Yosemite Valley. It is not exactly the most pleasant experience possible getting up at what seems the middle of the night, when it is cold as well as dark, but one is well rewarded when the deed is done, and our drive that morning for the first three hours was delightful. Afterwards the sun was dreadfully hot, the dust blinding, and the roads shocking. The scenery, beautiful all the way, became magnificent towards the end, when we entered the valley, and from Inspiration Point saw El Capitan, the mighty rock. On the right we passed the Bridal Veil fall, which descends in a filmy sheet of spray blown lightly about by every breeze. Unfortunately, it being the dry season, and no amount of rain having fallen for four months, we saw it at a great disadvantage. We also passed the Three Brothers, rocks standing out most prominently one below the other.

'We reached Leidig's Hotel at noon, a long, low wooden building, with mere boxes as rooms, and where every sound could be heard as in a whispering gallery.

It was bakingly hot, and every fly in creation seemed to have taken up its abode there.

'There is one vehicle for hire, which plies between the two hotels, Black's and Leidig's, and in that I took a drive in the afternoon close up to the Bridal Veil and Yosemite falls; both were suffering from the same complaint, want of water. In the rainy season the quantity is immense, and the roar heard at a great distance. The Yosemite fall consists of three distinct falls, the highest being 1,600 feet above the valley, the middle one 600 feet, and the last and lowest 400 feet. The distance the middle lies back from the lowest appears to be but two or three feet, but is in reality two miles! It is thus one is deceived at first sight with everything in the valley, and fails to estimate the magnitude of the scale. Its greatest width is two miles, its length about nine, and the granite rocks rising precipitously from this chasm to a height of about 4,000 feet, form scenery unsurpassed for grandeur and magnificence. As they bear a certain similarity on either side, geologists conclude it was the work of an earthquake. Many of them have names suggested by their strange fantastic forms.

'The next morning I started off for the Mirror Lake, about three miles away, where one is expected to go and see the rising sun reflected in the still waters. He was lazy that day, or perhaps, not being a lady, less fond of the looking-glass—anyhow, he did not make his appearance till much later; still we saw the mountains and sky mirrored with the startling clearness for which the

lake has gained its name. Looking down into its quiet depths I could scarce believe I saw but the reflection, so wonderfully distinct were even the details of the picture. We took a boat and went out into the centre of the lake in order to get the circle of views. It is very small; indeed, hardly entitled to be called a lake.

'I had arranged to go for another expedition immediately on my return at nine o'clock, but found I was so thoroughly done up I had to abandon the idea, and devote that day to rest. In the cool of the evening we went for a drive in the valley, to try and discern the little old man of El Capitan. While looking for him I made out another figure; only the head and shoulders and a suspicion of a leg were to be traced, but those very distinctly. The full face is turned towards the valley, and the head crowned with a three-cornered hat. I pointed it out to the driver, who was astonished it had never been noticed before. He was one of the pioneers, and had been living in the neighbourhood for twenty-seven years, yet had not seen it. *The* man mentioned in guidebooks and shown to tourists is easy to discern, though small. The face, which is in profile, has an intensely eager expression, and the body appears to be leaning forwards; the whiskers and tall hat are formed by pieces of black rock. Just below and in front of him is a pulpit with a book upon it. On another mountain we could clearly see the form of the head of an elephant with its trunk elevated, and on another a fish swimming in a sea of black rock.

'Coming back we passed a small ranchee, or encampment of the Digger Indians, so called because they subsist on roots and insects, though squirrels and other small animals they do not despise. Their dwellings are in shape like bee-hives, and made of boughs of wood stuck in the ground, and interwoven with leaves and grass. The men were out fishing, but several women were at home and one baby, all queer specimens of humanity. They were squatting on the floor dressed in rags of European clothing, their thick black hair falling over their faces in a wild unkempt style, and reaching to their shoulders. We asked them if they could speak English, and they replied in true Pidgin, 'no savey.' Most of them, if not all, can speak Spanish. They are also called Merced Indians, as the tribe live by the river of that name. Later on we came up with one of the men, and to judge by his appearance a very old one, though from all accounts they age speedily. He was returning from hunting, and had his bows and arrows in his hands, and three little squirrels tucked into his belt. I signed to him that I should like to look at his shooting gear, but he demurred till the driver assured him in Spanish I only wanted to see, not to possess, when he stepped forward and gave me them. The arrows were tipped with wood, but some that I had seen in the morning had stone tips. A more stolid countenance I think I never saw, and he bore a look of tolerance while we satisfied our curiosity, very amusing. He wore a European costume much the worse for wear, and his

head of hair reminded one of a blacking-brush, it was so short, thick, and coarse. There is one Indian belonging to another tribe, the Piutes, living in the valley; he is quite friendly with the others, and works with them. They are all very ugly, with square physiognomies, flattened noses, and mouths that very nearly stretch from ear to ear. I am told some are good farmers. They make cunning little baskets that will hold water, and sell them to the white man.

'The following day I was up at 5.30 A.M., and off on horseback for Glacier Point, 4,400 feet above the valley, which is itself about 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. The trail was, like most bridle-paths, narrow and steep, at times a little trying to the nerves when rounding sharp unprotected corners, with a sheer precipice on the one side and rocks on the other, but well known to the horses, who pick their way with great discretion. The ascent took nearly three hours, but the reward was great indeed. There lay the valley and the waterfalls below us, all things dwarfed into insignificance, an apple orchard looking like a patch of cabbages; while peak after peak, before invisible, stretched forth to the right and left, with drifts of snow lying in the mountain hollows.

'We rested a little, feasting our eyes upon the view, then *excelsior*, and away we went again, bound for a still higher point called Sentinel Dome. This last piece of climbing we had to do on foot, up over high granite boulders till we came under the shelter of a solitary pine

tree. The wind blew gustily, whistling among the branches with a weird dismal sound, and the sun blazed down upon our heads unflinchingly; but then—the magnificent panorama! instead of only one valley, three were opened up before us, and a sea of hills innumerable. It was grand, but so vast, so desolate, it made me feel miserable, and I was quite glad to go down again.

'At Glacier Point we had tiffin, and then started for the hotel. The descent was anything but agreeable, for my horse's saddle hurting him, he ambled down sideways in alarming fashion, his hind feet on the edge or a little over, and every now and then turned to go up again, but not choosing the nicest places for so doing. We got back very tired and dusty. To-morrow we leave by the terribly trying stage for Clarke's ranch. Now, as it is late, I must leave off writing.

'Sept. 4th. Time runs on, but my letter does not; several days have slipped by since I added anything to it. On the Monday we left the valley at one o'clock, reaching Clarke's ranch at seven, and the following morning were off by the stage at six for Merced, recollections of the former journey still fresh in our minds. This was not so dreadful because it was a rather cloudy day, and we were not so long upon the road, getting in at 7.30 P.M.

'The next day we had once more to be up and away by 6 A.M., this time by train to Lathrop. We got there at eight, and then for four mortal hours had to wait

about at the station for the Overland train. It was very wearisome, but could not be avoided. We beguiled the time as well as we could with speculations concerning the far-famed sleeping cars, to which we were about to be introduced, and expressions of thankfulness that the rough paths we had been travelling along during the past week were to be exchanged for far smoother ones. We certainly had not been fortunate in having to make our trip into the valley at that season of the year, when the long-continued drought had consumed every green thing, the snow had almost disappeared from the mountain ranges, and the waterfalls had become so insignificant.

'We had telegraphed for a drawing-room section, but found to our annoyance there were only two, and they had been previously appropriated. We had, therefore, to be content with a section and a state-room. Neither affords extensive accommodation, and dressing and undressing are not so easy as one might think, for it must be done in a kneeling position on your bed, and should you have a lower berth there is not room even for you to kneel upright in it. Each berth by night becomes a sofa-seat by day, so that the car is not uncomfortably crowded; but there is one drawback to all these arrangements, which is, that ladies and gentlemen, solitary travellers, have often to share the same section, and as there is but one curtain falling in front of both berths, it must be drawn aside by each on retiring and getting up, thereby exposing the other to view. Rooms

are fitted up at each end of the car for washing—one for ladies the other for "gents." In these you have to exercise unlimited patience while waiting for your turn. The sleeping car porters are black men, and as a rule very civil and obliging. Men pass perpetually through the cars, selling papers, fruit, cigars, books, &c., and iced-water is always to be had *on the premises*.

'The platforms at the end make delightful posts of observation, and living for days together one is almost sure to find amongst fellow-travellers some pleasant companions, so that life on the cars is by no means disagreeable, and in my experience never wearisome. To some of the trains are attached dining-cars, but when that is not the case, there are places along the route where meals are prepared for the passengers, and served well and quickly. The drawback to this is, you find it utterly impossible to fill "the vacuum that Nature doth abhor" in the very limited time allowed, except by running counter to all established rules of digestion, &c., and have to learn to accommodate your appetite to the slightly irregular hours fixed for the meals.

'The scenery was flat and monotonous at the beginning of the journey, but gradually improved as the day wore on; signs of busy life were everywhere; John Chinaman, as usual, patiently engaged in all kinds of labour. Just in the gloaming—which added to the solemn grandeur of the scene—we rounded "Cape Horn," a nearly full moon throwing a mantle of silvery beams over the mountains lying sombre and indistinct in the

gathering darkness, but unable to penetrate into the cañons beneath, which lay in awful gloom. The trestle bridge over which the train passes looks extremely fragile—but the ghost of a bridge—and creaks and groans beneath its living freight. The curve is so sharp that the engine-driver seems to contemplate a call upon the guard in the last carriage, but as if changing his mind, turns off abruptly round a spur of the mountain, and is lost to sight. While rapt in blissful slumbers we provokingly passed the rest of the beautiful scenery of the Sierra Nevada range, and through the immense snow sheds, awaking to find ourselves crossing dreary plains, for the most part covered with low scrub. The alkali dust, so disagreeable to eyes, lips, &c., kept blowing in, notwithstanding our efforts to bar its entrance with closed doors and double windows.

'We had joined the train at noon on Wednesday, and at 8 A.M. on Friday reached Ogden, where we changed for Utah; then two and a-half hours more, and we were at Salt Lake City. It looked very pretty on approaching it by the railway, as it lay before us in the valley, on either hand the snow-clad hills of the Wahsatch range, and in the distance the long silvery line of the lake gleaming in the sunlight. The houses mostly have little gardens attached, planted with fruit trees and gay with flowers. The streets are wide, with avenues of trees and tiny streams of water on either side. There are some fine buildings and handsome houses,

both Mormon and Gentile. We went to the Townshend House, or Mormon Hotel, with the false notion that we might see more of Mormonism, but were sorry afterwards, as it is not so comfortable as the Walker House. Mr. Townshend has two wives, one living in the hotel, the other in a house in the city. Mr. Walker, I was told, is an apostate from the faith.

'In the afternoon we drove to the Tabernacle, which looks like a mushroom, having a very peculiar and ugly roof. Both outside and inside it is very plain, lacking all ornamentation. It has one gallery, supported on wooden columns, which are painted to imitate marble. The organ is the second largest in the United States, was built in the Tabernacle by their own men, has three thousand pipes, fifty-two stops, and requires four men to blow the bellows. In the centre of the building is a very ugly fountain, which plays during the service. The ceiling, when we were there, was decorated with bouquets and festoons of artificial flowers, and the gallery with red, white, and blue flags, and between more festoons of flowers, while over the organ was extended a banner, on which were words of welcome. They had all been made by the Sunday school children, and put up the previous year, but gave to the building a very tawdry appearance. There is an upper pulpit for the president, just below a platform for the twelve apostles, and another below that, for the deacons and elders.

'Close to the Tabernacle is the Temple, which is in process of erection, and has been for the past fifteen

years, although the walls are as yet only a few feet high. They are nine feet thick, and the granite is brought on bullock-drays from a place eighteen miles away. We were shown the plans of the building, which, if ever completed, will be a handsome structure.

'The first tabernacle is also near by, a barn-like place, and capable of holding but a very small congregation.

'We saw the outside of Brigham Young's residence. It is called "Lion House," and with its dependent buildings, consisting of some of his wives' houses and a school-house for his children, is enclosed by a high stone wall. On the gateway is the singularly appropriate sign of an eagle clasping in his talons a bee-hive. Nearly opposite is a very nice house he has lately built for his favourite spouse.

'Through the introduction of a fellow-traveller we called upon one of his wives, who received us most kindly. Brigham was away from home when we arrived, on a distant visit to some of his flock, but was expected back on Saturday, the report also being that he would preach on the Sunday.

'In the morning of that day we went to church, and in the afternoon to the Mormon service. The body of the building was moderately well filled, the men sitting in one part, the women in another. The service commenced with prayer, offered by one of the deacons or elders; then a hymn was sung by the choir, the congregation not joining in, followed by another short

prayer before the sacrament was passed round. While that was being done, another hymn was sung, and then one of the twelve apostles, and the peoples' representative in Congress, was asked to say a few words. He rose, and occupied *only one hour*, in vindicating the right of the Latter Day Saints, of whom he said he was proud to be one, to believe in and do just what they liked, and giving the very lamest possible defence of the Mormon faith.

'During the speech the communion service was being carried on, and he was asked to pause for a few minutes while a prayer was offered before they partook of the wine. He sat down at last, with a hearty Amen, fervently echoed by the people.

'A very young man was the next to speak, who, after saying that he was a Latter Day Saint missionary, and proud to be such, commented on the number of Mormons who were only so in name, but false in practice; how many there were who committed the sin of marrying outside the church, which was really no marriage; and how the women who did so would find themselves at the resurrection day in the predicament of being minus husbands! His whole speech was rambling, and a constant repetition. It was pitiful to think that so many were gathered together for a religious service, and instead of bread were given such stones.

'On leaving, we turned to note the faces of the people as they came out. The oldest among them bore

evident signs of the sufferings and privations they had passed through when brought thither by their leader, and of their incessant toil since to make what was but a desert of salt what it now is. The countenances of the younger men and women were certainly below the average, both physically and intellectually, and most of them seemed sickly. Seeing them, led us to speculate what the next generation would be like, should Mormonism hold its ground. That seems doubtful, however, for almost daily there are apostates from the faith; the president is now an old man upwards of seventy; and though one of his sons is spoken of as his successor, it is scarcely likely that anyone will entirely fill his place; also, what until recently was wholly a Mormon settlement, not permitting a Gentile to enter its city gates, has now nearly as many of the one as the other. They have a Mormon Bible containing revelations said to have been made to Joe Smith. At first these forbad polygamy; but subsequently he had a vision in which it was stated that it was pleasing to God. Brigham has seventeen temporal wives who are sealed to him for time; but I do not know how many are sealed to him for eternity. It is reported that he is very rich, but that the riches are ill-gotten gains, gathered together by grinding the faces of the poor of his flock.

'On Saturday evening, finding there was to be a moonlight excursion to the Lake, we made up our minds to join it. The Lake is about eighteen miles away, and

we were about an hour getting there. The train, which started in one of the streets, waited in primitive style for some people who were late in arriving. A band played lively airs during the journey. We then went on the lake for an hour and a-half. The steamer was not large and looked ominously top-heavy, with two upper decks. It had only one paddle-wheel, which was at the stern, and without a box. Dancing was kept up while we glided noiselessly through the water, the mountains around us looking like phantoms in the shimmering moonlight. It was a strange scene, and made me feel as if I were in a dream.

'This morning (Monday) we have been to see the theatre. It smelt very musty and fusty, besides looking as miserable as such places generally do by daylight. Brigham Young's rocking-chair was pointed out to us, and seemed chiefly remarkable for its shabby cushions. From there we paid a visit to the Mormon museum, instituted in 1868, by one of Brigham's sons, which, though small, is interesting. It contains specimens of the industries of the people from the first until now. Their isolated position so far from towns and cities making the transport of goods impossible, has compelled them to depend for the necessaries of life upon their own exertions. There was a man's coat, such as used to be worn in the early days of the colony, just made of ends of wool, knitted by the women; and pieces of cloth showing how improvements had been made since they had begun weaving; also specimens of paper, printing,

&c., and a goodly show of the mineral riches of the country. We had hoped to be able to go and see the famous Emma Mine, but time would not allow.

'I must not forget to tell you that we interviewed Brigham Young. He is now an old man, over seventy years of age, rather stout, with sandy hair plentifully sprinkled with white, a florid complexion, and pale-blue eyes; has very much the look of an English farmer, and a shrewd expression of countenance. He does not approve of his followers indulging in mining speculations, but teaches them to adopt instead agricultural pursuits.[1]

The Mormons have indirectly been the means of opening up California and of the formation of the Trans-continental railway, which has done, and is doing so much for the Western States.

'We have learnt to our cost that expenses are very great in America. For one's peace of mind it is wise to start with the idea that a dollar is just equal to one shilling and no more. You would be amused how we have to submit to rules and regulations in this free country. When in the Valley we found that we must go the different excursions just when the people might choose to supply us with the necessary horses, guides, and carriages, and have our meals when they chose to prepare them for us. It is the same here. The other day we were leaving at 5.20 P.M., and wanted dinner beforehand, but were informed that a table d'hôte would

[1] Since writing this, the death of Brigham Young has occurred.

be ready at five o'clock. We remonstrated, saying we could not eat it in a quarter of an hour, but were assured that we should find that ample time, and moreover, that we could not have that or any other meal earlier. It is time I made an end to this epistle, which has become alarmingly bulky. Farewell.'

CHAPTER VIII.

CHICAGO, NIAGARA, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, AND HOME.

AT 7 A.M. on Tuesday, we left Salt Lake City, and in two hours reached Ogden, where we joined the overland train, and almost directly after entered the beautiful Weber Cañon, and began to rapidly ascend. The valley is very narrow, with frowning rocks on either side, grotesque and varied in form, and the Weber river runs swiftly through it. We passed a number of places named as the special property of the 'gentleman in black,' and the famous one thousand mile tree, a 'living mile-stone,' as the guidebook calls it, which by a freak of nature marks that distance from Omaha; sped over wonderful trestle bridges spanning yawning depths, through small settlements, which are as it were seeds scattered by the iron horse, as he has ploughed his way along the land; out of Weber Cañon into Echo Cañon, stopping in between at the city of that name, on and on, and up and up, vegetation becoming scarcer, the Uinta mountains, to whose sides the snow still clung, getting nearer, and habitations fewer. By the afternoon we had reached a height of 7,800 feet, passed through

several outlying Mormon villages, and come to the Rocky Mountains and to sterile table lands; vast play-houses for the winds, with red sandstone rocks for toys. There were a great number of snow sheds and wooden fences on account of the heavy snow-drifts of winter, and a more dreary-looking prospect could not be imagined.

About noon the next day we reached Laramie, now an important place, and crossed the plains of that name, which are covered with sage brush and cacti, a long low line of black hills lying in the distance, with a snowy range in the background. We then came to Sherman, at a height of 8,242 feet above the sea, and further on to Cheyenne, both mushroom cities of the line, and sped across the prairies of Nebraska territory, watered by the river Platte. The wee prairie dogs, perched upon their mound homes, peered at us as we rushed past, queer little fellows, something between a rabbit and a squirrel in appearance.

So we journeyed on till the afternoon of the next day, when we crossed the handsome bridge which spans the Missouri river, and entered Omaha. There the Union Pacific railway comes to an end, and three different lines convey passengers to Chicago. Unwittingly, the four members of our party had not chosen the same line, so we had to part company till the following day, when we arranged to meet at the same hotel.

The weather was intensely sultry, coming to a climax in a terrific thunderstorm during the night. The next day we passed through beautiful fertile country, but the

fields of maize had been devastated by those enemies of the farmer, grasshoppers.

'Palmer House, Chicago, September 10th.

'Here I am safe and sound, after a four days' sojourn on the cars, and not much fatigued. As for this city it is a marvellous place, such fine buildings, such wide streets, such hotels, such stores, where but a few years ago scarce one was standing—only charred wood, blackened timber, ruin and desolation. It is almost incredible. There are numbers of hotels, and banks; also asylums, hospitals, and libraries; block after block of enormous stores, wholesale and retail; and churches and chapels in abundance. Stone and brick are the materials used now, even the wooden pavements, which so helped on the late disastrous fire, are fast disappearing.

'Our hotel is a magnificent place, and the appointments perfect. Black fellows to wait on us, good-tempered and obliging. Iced-water everywhere. They certainly understand the management of hotels in America, which is more than we can say in England. The price of the rooms depends upon how high you *condescend* to go, from 3:50 to five dollars.

'Yesterday we spent the afternoon at the Inter-State Industrial Exhibition, which interested us much. It is held here annually.

'Of street cars there is an abundance, but of cabs a singular dearth. One more day of sight-seeing and then we are off again. The weather has been wretched;

a severe thunderstorm, then soaking rain, and so cold. I will write you again from New York.'

The gentlemen of our party began the next day by a visit to the stock yards, which are about five or six miles out of the city, where they saw a process by which an unfortunate pig went in alive at one end of the machinery and came out cured pork at the other, or something nearly as wonderful. Afterwards we all went to see one of the grain elevators, where ships, barges, railway trucks, and wagons are filled in a marvellously short space of time, and which are also immense storehouses for the grain. The machine-band, which was specially pointed out to us, was four feet wide, three hundred feet long, and half an inch thick, and called the 'everlasting band.' It was made of a composition of india-rubber and cloth, and had been in use already about seven years. When we had tramped up steep flights of stairs, amidst the whirr of the machinery, had it all minutely explained to us, our heads crammed with startling figures showing how many bushels could be stored at a time, or elevated, weighed, and shot in an hour, and had our clothes powdered with dust, we left and went to see the water-works. The machinery is some of the finest in America. Two miles out, in Lake Michigan, is the crib, and the water is conveyed from that by means of a tunnel.

We walked up the two hundred and forty steps to the top of the water tower in order to get a good view.

The lake looked like the sea, with white horses as far as the eye could reach, and nearer, waves, great big fellows, breaking upon the shore in grand style.

In Chicago, as in 'Frisco,' 'staring ads' are everywhere, and you walk along the street beneath a canopy of them, suspended from five or six storied houses.

There, I am sorry to say, our party had to divide, two of the friends wishing to make a longer stay, the remaining two had to proceed alone; but we arranged to meet again in New York.

We left for Niagara the next day at five P.M. by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, and the following morning at seven o'clock reached Cleveland, where we breakfasted. It is a large place, and we were told a pretty one, but were only favoured with the sight of back slums and the smell of petroleum *ad libitum*. We wished to stay a few hours to see the oil-refining, but found it was impossible.

Leaving there, we travelled through lovely country; past beautiful woods clad in their dying vestments of red and gold, flowery dells and waving corn-fields, rich pasture lands where the cows were lazily chewing their morning meal, and acres of ground just cleared, where fire and axe had done their work; past thriving towns and outlying shanties, and large orchards where the trees bent beneath their burden of ripe and rosy fruit.

Niagara, September 14th.

'Have seen Niagara; and having written that, I scarcely know what else to write. Its awful grandeur mocks at human language. I had been told that very probably I should be disappointed at first; but no—it was full satisfaction; and yet each time I see the mighty torrent of waters I think they are grander, more beautiful than ever. The rapids alone are worth coming from England to see. How wonderful to think that unceasingly, day and night, year after year, they thus go on roaring, rushing, surging, foaming, in mad haste to dash headlong into the gulf below.

'My friend is staying at another hotel, but we have been "doing" the place together. We have viewed the Falls from above, we have viewed them from beneath, crossed in the ferry, mounted in an elevator to the top of one of the towers of the suspension bridge, and "viewed the landscape o'er;" seen the whirlpool rapids, down which the "Maid of the Mist" made her memorable excursion, crossed the old suspension bridge, been into the "Cave of the Winds" (having first to be attired in mackintosh garments of most remarkable appearance); been to the Rocky Islands, Goat, Lunar, and the Three Sisters, and done everything else expected of visitors to Niagara.

'I wish you could have seen us when we went to the "Cave of the Winds," in our yellow tarpaulin costumes, with hoods projecting far in front. Handsome was not the word for them, I can assure you. So

attired, we had to make our way down sloppy steps and along a slippery pathway, which grew narrower and narrower till at last it was nothing but a ledge of rock just wide enough for us to creep cautiously along in Indian file. Every minute we had to pause and pant for breath; indeed I felt as if I had none left, and should be choked; while the wind blew in gusts, the spray was blinding, and the roar overwhelming. When we had got right under the Falls we stood backing up against the rocks, the canopy of water coming down like a curtain before us. It was fearfully grand.

'I ran my head against a very sharp ledge of rock when I was making my way back again; you will think that I have a design upon my brains, but having to struggle with my waterproof garments, which would keep slipping off, and take heed to the paths of my feet, I did not notice my enemy, which was jutting out very awkwardly. However, my head is hard.

'The coachman who drove us back to the hotel told us that all the years he had lived in the place, and they were very many, he had never been to the different points to view the Falls; and when we asked him why, mildly answered that "he did not care for water"—the barbarian, Goth, and heathen!

'The enterprising Americans have taken up every possible point whence a view can be obtained, and established tolls and curio shops for the benefit of the tourists!

'Travelling in America is, I think, far more for-

midable than in the East, for there to be a European seems an introduction for all kindness and attention to be shown you; whereas here you are just a unit among the hundreds, and few think of troubling themselves to speak to you. The meals I find especially dreary affairs. I do not know if this will be my experience at the other places I may have to go to alone, but it has certainly been so here. "'Tis now the very witching time of night," so "I guess" I will go to bed.'

'New York, September 17th.

'On Friday evening at eight o'clock, having taken a last look at Niagara, packed my traps, and paid my bill, I found my way into one of the many omnibuses which were waiting to take travellers to the station. I arrived to find my friend there before me, so together we rushed off to see to checking our baggage &c. Travelling all night, we found ourselves next morning at six o'clock at Albany, where we abandoned the cars for the Hudson River steamboat. I was far from well, having a bad feverish attack, and scarcely knew how to keep up. That day's journey seemed interminable, and New York, to which I looked forward as a haven of rest, very far off. The boat was crowded with passengers, there not being even standing-room on the deck, and until midday a charming view of umbrellas and back hair was nearly all that was afforded us. By that time some of the people had left at the different landing-stages *en*

route, and we were able to ensconce ourselves in a shady corner.

'At first the river was very narrow and the scenery of the banks tame, but it soon widened out, and the view on either side became strikingly beautiful. It somewhat reminded me of the Rhine, but lacked the picturesque ruined castles which add so much to the charm of the latter. It was a nine or ten hours' trip, but well worth taking, instead of the shorter route in the cars. We arrived at New York just as it was getting dark, and had a long drive through noisy streets to our hotels. We were bound for different ones, having fixed upon them before we knew that we should be travelling companions, and having ordered our letters &c., thought it wiser not to alter.

'It was difficult as we went along to believe we were not already in London, and the roar and din of the traffic kept me awake a long time that night.

'This morning it is raining hard, and blowing likewise, quite a gale; and as I am still very sadly I cannot make up my mind to face the stormy elements, and shall not go out to-day. Only those who have crossed the American continent know how fatiguing it is, and for the past month or more I have had a really tiring time of it, and much need rest. One of my portmanteaux is, of course, smashed, and must be emptied and sent to be repaired. Another I had to have done in Chicago. All trunks need to have most extraordinary

powers of endurance, or be made of cast iron, to get safely through journeys in America.

'The Americans have a mania for iced drinks; water, milk, tea and coffee, all being taken in this way; I cannot say that I like their doughy hot little loaves and cakes, and their close heated rooms are unbearable.

'September 18th. There is no need for me to describe New York to you, but I am surprised how much it reminds one of a continental city—the shops and streets all have *l'air Français* about them, which I did not expect. To-day I have been to Tiffany's, of world-wide celebrity, and Stewart's dry goods store, both immense places, the former of marble, the latter of iron; to the New Post Office and Trinity Church; also walked down Broadway and bent my steps into Wall Street to transact my small business in money affairs. I am always glad when that is over, for I still find it an appalling thing to visit banks and money changers, and this time I had to do both.

'I afterwards got into a car to go to Central Park,' as I was told it would not take me long to get there. It took me just five minutes short of an hour, so I could only give a hasty look round and skurry back again, unless I wished to go starving till dinner-time, so shall have to make another pilgrimage there.

'Sept. 19th. Have been to-day to see about my berth for Liverpool, and find there is no steamer of the White Star line going on the 30th, which is the date I think I shall be able to leave for England; but the

agent says he will transfer my ticket to the Inman line. I am going to Philadelphia, if all be well, on Thursday. I hear it takes twenty-five years to see the Exhibition, so shall only allow myself a week!

'I went to the Central Park again to-day, this time doing it thoroughly, museum and menagerie included. It is very extensive, and in many parts charmingly laid out. I have also been to see Cooper's Institute, which, though a red brick ugly building, is, like many unornamental things, very useful. Education for anyone who cares for it "free, gratis, for nothing." Class-rooms for each branch, and a reading-room.

'Some of my friends have turned up here to-day, at which I am rejoiced. They intend leaving for England very soon. The others are staying at another hotel, and will start about the 7th of next month. It is provoking, but I cannot be ready to go with the former, and yet do not wish to delay so long as the latter. Only one more letter, and then home. I dare not think about it.

'On the Thursday I left for Philadelphia it was unfortunately a public holiday in New York, granted by the President, that the people might visit the Exhibition. Some friends knowing this, wrote me that as they were going down they would meet me at the station that we might go together; but that in case we should miss one another, I was to go to the hotel they intended going to, and ask for the rooms they had telegraphed to secure. Need I say, we *did* miss one an-

other. I got into an immense crowd at the station, and had a breathless scramble for a seat, which having luckily pounced upon I clung to tenaciously. It was a beautiful country we passed through, but we were three hours upon the journey; I was very tired, and not a little disconcerted to find I had missed my friends.

'At six o'clock the train steamed into the station, but on going to claim my baggage, I had the comfortable intelligence that it was coming in the next train, and that I must wait to claim it. It was due in about ten minutes, but did not come in for quite an hour. It was already dark, and very chilly. I had a very bad headache, and having had scarcely anything since breakfast, was getting faint. All the passengers had departed except one lady in the same strait as myself.

'When at last the train arrived, I had to see enough luggage in the shape of Saratoga trunks turned out of the van to contain clothing for all New York, before my meek-looking little portmanteau made its appearance. Having secured it, I turned to a porter and handed him my check; but instead of taking it, he gruffly said, "Is that yours—what are you going to do with it?" "Take it to the hotel with me," I answered. With an extreme look of disdain, he replied, "But you can't lift that yourself." The idea was too comical; and though tired and disconsolate I could not help laughing, saying at the same time, "No; I have no intention of trying." "You go and get a hack first, and then come back for your box," he said; so having

received my orders I obeyed. Outside was a great crowd of men and boys smoking, &c., and about a dozen ragged urchins rushed forward directly to offer their services, and with them a hack proprietor, who, finding what sort of a customer he had to deal with, evidently thought it an opportunity for "piling the agony" in the way of price. I was not to be robbed in such a fashion, and made him come down to a more reasonable fare. Then climbing into a capacious vehicle drawn by a pair of horses, I was driven off to what seemed to be the ends of the earth. I thought I should never reach my destination; and the driver not knowing the hotel, as it was one of many run up for the Exhibition, landed me first at two other places—restaurants—and only after the third attempt at the right place. On going in, I found the large hall crowded with men, smoking and ——, as usual, and had to elbow my way to the desk, and await with patience my turn to speak to one of the clerks. Then I was handed over to a black fellow, and desired to go in the lift to the fifth floor.

'It was about eight o'clock, and something in the shape of food I felt would be desirable; but no, of course not—no meal of any sort could be had till nine o'clock. So ended my journey down to Philadelphia, by no means a pleasant one.'

'Philadelphia, September 22nd.

'After seven hours spent in the Exhibition, and then a long time in trying to get some dinner, I have

established myself in my room to write you my *last* letter, while a distant sound of rattling plates and dishes keeps me in mind of the skirmish I have had for a meal, and commands my sincere sympathy for the many other unfortunates who are now going through the same campaign. If only you could have seen the dining-room this evening! It was full to overflowing, and the doorway literally choked with people waiting a chance to pounce into vacant seats, while those who were already there were kept waiting so long between each course as almost to get hungry again. It is all bustle and confusion, and one needs an extra supply of patience when visiting cities in the time of an Exhibition. It is only a second-rate hotel, but its great advantage is its proximity to the Exhibition, a matter of no small importance when you come out so footsore and weary.

'I have been to-day over only a part of one of the seventeen buildings which go to make up the Centennial. It is a gigantic affair, and all wondrously interesting, and the grounds very extensive. A railway runs round them.

'I think the women's pavilion a grand idea, and have been through that thoroughly. It was suggested by the women of America, and the building reared with funds subscribed by them, and none but women's work admitted.

'I shall have to choose which of the many things I

care most to see, for it will be impossible to do more than a tithe.

'Monday, September 25th. The whole of Saturday it rained in torrents, and Sunday was little better. Both Saturday and to-day I have been hard at work seeing the Exhibition, and mightily hard work it is too. I was forced to leave early this afternoon, I felt so ill, and this evening am fit for nothing. Hope to be better to-morrow.

'On Thursday I mean to try and leave here for Washington, return to New York on Friday, and start on Saturday for England—can you believe it?—I can't. My time is well mapped out, you see, and I shall not be able to let the grass grow under my feet.

'Boston I cannot go to. I am very sorry, but there must be a limit somewhere, or I shall never get home.

'After all, my friends are all of them going by the same steamer as myself, the "City of Richmond," so we shall be a party of six. It is "quite too awfully jolly."

'Wednesday, 27th. Instead of seeing more of the Exhibition, or going to Washington, I have been "doing" the invalid in bed since Monday. It has been an aggravated attack of the same sort of fever I had coming from Niagara, and though I am now getting better, I feel decidedly the worse for wear, and more shaky than I could have thought possible in such a little while. It is very provoking, for I have not time to be ill.

'I shall now have to give up going to Washington,

but shall, if possible, travel back to New York to-morrow, so as to be able to take things quietly for getting off on Saturday.

'This is actually the last letter I shall write to you, after fifteen months of such unsatisfactory work, and the next news you get will be *vivâ voce*.'

The following day (Thursday) was a fatiguing one, especially as I was still feeling very sadly. Early in the morning I went to Independence Hall, only to find that some few hundred persons had done likewise, the result being I could have but limited peeps at the curiosities through telescopes made by people's arms, or by tip-toeing over or stooping under their shoulders.

I had to hurry back, having but little time left for getting tiffin, packing my things, settling my bill, &c., and going to the station to catch the train for New York. I reached the hotel at about seven in the evening, quite tired out.

On Saturday afternoon I began the last of my many voyages, and bade farewell to Yankee land. Sunday was dreadfully wet, and the 'pond' anything but a smooth one. Almost everyone was laid on the shelf, and I was no exception to the rule; and we had afterwards several other opportunities of testing our powers as sailors, with lamentable failures. It was a very uneventful voyage.

On the Monday we came into Queenstown harbour, landed mails and passengers, and reached Liverpool

during that night. The next morning I went on deck as the tender was coming alongside, and just in time to catch the glimpse of my friends, who had come to meet me. Only those who have been away from home for many many months, travelling in foreign lands, know the joy and thankfulness one feels at such a time.

And now this rambling account of the places I have visited and scenes through which I have passed comes to an end. For me remains a life-long store of pleasant memories, with abundant gratitude for the exceeding kindness shown me by each and all with whom I have come in contact during my tour round the world; and, above all, to Him who has preserved me through all perils by land and sea, and brought me back in safety to my home.

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